FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Middle East & North Africa

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STEADFASTNESS FRONT CONFERENCE HELD IN DAMASCUS

Libya Proposes Agenda

LD191224Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0725 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Tripoli, 19 March, JANA--JANA has learned that 2 days ago the Jamahiriyah called for a meeting of the foreign ministers of the confrontation and steadfastness front to be held in Damascus to discuss a two-point agenda:

"1. Complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist enemy from southern Lebanon, without any trusteeship of international or isolationist forces.

"2. Continuation of the fighting by the PLO with all its groups and the Lebanese progressive forces with an undertaking from the steadfastness front to provide all their battle needs and the formation of a committee with headquarters in Damascus or Beirut to coordinate the implementation of those undertakings and the provision of air cover for camps and populated areas."

At-Turayki Arrives in Damascus

JN192005Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Libyan Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali at-Turayki and his delegation arrived in Damascus at 2000 today to participate in the meetings of the conference of the foreign and defense ministers of the states of the front of steadfastness and confrontation. He was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, a number of Foreign Ministry officials and the head of the Libyan Relations Office in Damascus.

Bouteflika Arrives

JN191650Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika arrived in Damascus at 1600 today. Bouteflika is accompanied by an Algerian delegation including Col 'Abd al-Hamid al-Atrash, secretary of the Algerian Defense Ministry. Abdelaziz Bouteflika will attend the conference of the foreign and defense ministers of the states of the front of steadfastness. He was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Deputy Defense Minister and Air Force Commander Maj Gen Naji Jamil and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

PDRY Ministers Arrive

JN191654Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Text] PDRY Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Muti' and PDRY Defense Minister Ahmad Nasir 'Antar and their accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus via Beirut this afternoon to participate in the conference of the foreign and defense ministers of the states of the front of steadfastness and confrontation. They were received at the Shooting Club by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd ak-Karim 'Adi, a number of Foreign Ministry officials and the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

Khaddam Addresses Conference

JN192256Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The conference of the foreign and defense ministers of the front of the states of confrontation and steadfastness began its meetings at 2100 today in the conference hall of the Miridian Hotel in Damascus. The Syrian delegation was headed by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the Algerian delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika; the Libyan delegation by Foreign Secretary Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki; the PDRY delegation by Muhammad Salih Muti', PDRY Foreign Minister; and the Palestinian delegation by 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman of the PLO. At the beginning of the meeting, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam made a speech in which he said:

I welcome you in Damascus, the capital of the Umayyads, which has always been and will remain the base of Arab steadfastness and will always express the aspirations and ambitions of the Arabs to build a unified, liberated and progressive Arab homeland.

Mr Khaddam said: The holding of the first conference of the foreign and defense ministers of the national front for steadfastness and liberation [as heard] comes at this difficult stage when a dear part of the Lebanese territory is being subjected to occupation and when our comrades in the long march of struggle of the Palestinian people are being subjected to aggression and liquidation.

Mr Khaddam spoke about the delicate and serious circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing and said: Perhaps the most dangerous challenge to us is the great plot which we defined and exposed during the Tripoli and Algiers conferences. The policy of the Egyptian regime is one link of this plot. Now the second link has appeared through the Zionist aggression. Therefore, we are facing one phase of the plot after another. This plot is aimed at imposing a settlement of capitulation on the Arab nation and at humiliating the Arab nation. Within this picture we understand the significance of the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the Israeli occupation of new Arab territory. We know that the aims of this aggression are to create new realities to the detriment of the Palestinian cause and of the national unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

Mr Khaddam said: The Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon did not come as a surprise to us because the line of the plot has been clear since the visit of the president of the Egyptian regime to occupied Jerusalem and since the beginning of the dialog between As-Sadat and the leaders of the Israeli enemy.

Mr Khaddam also spoke about the unavoidable national responsibilities in order to face the enemy's plots and the implementation of these plots. Among these responsibilities are work to end the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and to back the Lebanese state to enable it to shoulder its national responsibilities. Naturally this is an important element in shouldering pan-Arab responsibility and in protecting the Palestinian revolution against all the attempts to liquidate it. This will also deepen national unity and strengthen the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people so that it can shoulder its pan-Arab responsibility in all fields. There must be efforts to solve Lebanese-Palestinian differences, bring back the trust between them and remove all the existing causes of mistrust. This undoubtedly requires understanding of the nature of the special Lebanese-Palestinian situation. There must also be an end to hesitation in facing the enemy.

This dictates that the Palestinian cause and the issue of the all-out liberation should be placed at the top of national and regional concerns and that the requisites should be made available. This also dictates that we must leave the stage of presenting ideas and slogans regarding the issue of building intrinsic power.

This requires exerting the principal effort to achieving strategic balance between the Syrian front and the Israeli enemy. He said: Our struggle with the Israeli enemy is a long struggle, and it must be a multifaceted one. This makes it incumbent upon us to work to make the pan-Arab dimension of the struggle an effective concept. This can be done by mobilizing the Arab nation's resources so that every Arab country shoulders its part in this struggle to the extent that it believes that it can. If any country believes in its responsibility, it can do a lot.

In this regard, I can assert that Syria has unwaveringly been shouldering its pan-Arab responsibilities in decisionmaking and in practice. Syria calls upon the Arab nation to end its hesitation in confronting the enemy and in realizing the historic depth of this struggle and the Israeli enemy's objectives.

Proceeding from this clear concept, Syria calls on all the Arabs to shoulder their responsibilities on its soil, and it welcomes them to take up their positions in Syria, so long as these positions serve our nation and support it in its struggle. In this regard, we must invite all those who realize the dimensions of our current struggle against the Israeli enemy to shoulder the responsibility to the extent that they realize the dimensions of this struggle. This is because history will grant no mercy to those who desist when they [word indistinct] and hesitate when a decision should be made.

In conclusion, Khaddam said: Millions of our Arab nation throughout our Arab homeland, particularly in Palestine and the rest of the occupied Arab territories, are looking to our conference with the hope that this conference will effectively and positively participate in our struggle against the enemy. We must work for them until we achieve their hope and aspiration.

Ministers Resume Meetings

JN200947Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The conference of the foreign and defense ministers of the states of the front of steadfastness and confrontation resumed its work this morning at the Meridian Hotel. The conference's political and military committees began their work in Damascus last night.

Khaddam Comments on Conference

JN201749Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The conference of the foreign and defense ministers of the states of the front of steadfastness and confrontation resumed its meeting with both its political and military committees at Meridian Hotel this afternoon. The conference held its second meeting this morning with the attendance of all the delegation members of the conference. Following the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam made a statement to newsmen in which he said: We have continued the political discussions of all questions related to the current situation which has resulted from the Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon. We have also discussed the Arab situation and means of facting this situation in a manner that serves our pan-Arab objectives.

Al-Asad Receives Ministers

JN201938Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At 1900 today His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received the members of the conference of the foreign and defense ministers of the steadfastness and confrontation front, which is convening in Damascus. The meeting was attended by all the members of the PLO delegation to the conference.

The members of the conference briefed his excellency the president on the results of their discussions regarding the situation which has resulted from the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. His excellency the president discussed with them the situation and its developments, as well as the Arab position which should be adopted to confront this aggression. The members of the conference had dinner with the president.

Khaddam Press Conference

JN210717Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At the end of the conference of the foreign and defense ministers of the states of the steadfastness and confrontation front, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with journalists and representatives of the Arab and foreign news agencies. The foreign minister answered questions from the journalists:

He said: There is no doubt that the results we achieved can be considered a new step toward consolidating joint Arab action and confronting all the Israeli expansionist ambitions. Khaddam added that what concerned the conference above all was achieving an immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Lebanese territory and to preserve Lebanon's unity, independence and national sovereignty. This should be the objective not only of the states that met, but also of the entire Arab nation.

Asked about the PLO call to convene a summit conference of the states of the steadfastness and confrontation front, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: We discussed this topic, and the date will be fixed following the appropriate contacts to be held among the leaders of the steadfastness front.

Speaking about the stand of the states of the steadfastness and confrontation front toward the UN Security Council resolution, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said: What concerns the front of steadfastness is achieving an immediate Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Lebanese territory.

Asked whether another meeting of the foreign ministers of the states of the steadfastness and confrontation front has been fixed, Khaddam said: We agreed to continue contacts, and if another meeting is necessary, it would be possible to hold one.

Speaking about Syria's declaration that its territory is open to the Arab forces which want to participate in the battle front and whether this means that Iraqi forces might participate in this front, Khaddam said: The Syrian stand is clear and frank. What is important is for efforts to be exerted to achieve an Israeli withdrawal.

In reply to a question on whether Arab forces, even if only token, are expected to arrive in Lebanon during the next stage, Khaddam said: This is a matter above all for the legitimate authorities in Lebanon.

Asked whether the conference adopted a resolution to cover the possibility that UN forces are stationed in Lebanon and Israeli withdrawal is not achieved, Khaddam said: As I said, we should work to bring about an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory. The international community must shoulder its responsibilities to achieve this. We should help the Lebanese authorities and support them in bringing about an Israeli withdrawal from the territory of fraternal Lebanon.

Asked about Syria's stand toward the question of holding a summit conference, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: We discussed this topic and we agreed that any Arab meeting in response to the policy of the Egyptian regime's leader would not serve Arab action.

Conference Issues Statement

JN2101107 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0015 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The conference of foreign and defense ministers of the pan-Arab steadfastness and confrontation front ended in Damascus late tonight. The conference issued the following statement:

Within the framework of action to face the results which ensued from the recent Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, the foreign and defense ministers of the pan-Arab steadfastness and confrontation front held an emergency conference in Damascus on 10-11 Rabi' ath-Thani 1398 Hegira, corresponding to 19-20 March 1978. The conference discussed the situation which has resulted from the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon, which is aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue, striking at the Palestinian resistance, violating Lebanon's independence and sovereignty, outflanking [iltifaf] the Syrian front in order to surround it since it is the major fortress of steadfastness against the enemy and creating propitious circumstances to peddle a capitulatory solution as part of the imperialist plot which the leader of the Egyptian regime is seeking to implement in the Arab homeland.

The conference discussed expeditious measures to confront the aggression and its results. Practical measures in the political and military fields were adopted to this end. The conference affirmed the following:

1. Condemnation of the Zionist aggression against Lebanese territory, the Lebanese people and the Palestinian resistance.

2. The need for Israel's complete and immediate unconditional withdrawal from all the occupied Lebanese territories.

3. Condemnation of the terror being carried out by the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian people.

4. Solidarity with the fraternal Lebanese people and affirmation of respect for the independence of Lebanon, its sovereignty, the unity of its people and the sanctity of its national soil, as well as support for the legitimate constitutional authorities to enable them to carry out all their national responsibilities and strengthen national reconciliation under the leadership of President Ilyas Sarkis.

5. Confrontation of the U.S. and Zionist conspiracies aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue and support for the Palestinian resistance in all fields, particularly in the political and military fields; providing the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO with the required capabilities to continue their just struggle for repatriation, the right to self-determination and the establishment of their national independent state on the soil of Palestine.

6. Proceeding from the resolutions of the Tripoli and Algiers conferences, any Arab meeting in which President Anwar as-Sadat participates is rejected in view of his responsibility for the deterioration of the situation in the area; his role and stand vis-a-vis the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and his continued association with the U.S. imperialist-Zionist scheme against the entire Arab nation are condemned.

7. Support for the steadfastness and struggle of the Palestinian people's upheaval against the Zionist occupation authorities.

The conference expresses its deep conviction that current events will increase the strength and solidity of the fraternal relations existing between the fraternal Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and their solidarity in struggling against the common enemy.

The conference salutes the steadfastness of the Lebanese people and the forces of the Palestinian resistance who have bravely and heroically confronted the Zionist aggression, thus reaffirming that there will be no peace in the region unless the Palestinian people regain their national rights.

The conference hails the stands of the nations, states and forces which have condemned the Israeli aggression and supported the just Arab cause.

PDRY, Libyan Ministers Leave

JN210910Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 21 March--Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan foreign secretary, and the delegation accompanying him, as well as Muhammad Salih Muti', PDRY foreign minister and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus early today after attending the meetings of the conference of the foreign and defense ministers of the steadfastness front. The meetings were held 19-20 March in Damascus.

'ARAFAT PRESIDES OVER JOINT FORCES MEETING

JN201456Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1448 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 March--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, today presided over a military meeting of the joint forces central command in southern Lebanon. The Palestinian news agency has reported that the meeting, held in southern Lebanon, dealt with the joint forces military situation on the 6th day of the Zionist aggression and with the opposition to that aggression.

ABU IYAD SAYS PALESTINIANS WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT

NC210905Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0833 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 21 March--Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, the number two man in the Palestinian movement Fatah, has affirmed that if the town of Tyre in southern Lebanon were to fall that would not be the end of the battle and that the Palestinians will fight the Israeli enemy wherever he is found and with all the weapons at their disposal.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, published today, Khalaf said that the town of Tyre is besieged. It is being subjected to land, sea and air strikes by Israel, and it might fall at any moment. Khalaf accused the Arab nation of leaving the Palestinians alone in the battle. He said: This does not mean that we have laid down our arms. He added: The entry of the UN forces into southern Lebanon will not impede our movement, and this time the Arabs will have to pay the price along with Israel.

Khalaf affirmed that the Palestinian resistance is not easily defeated, that it is still putting up a brave resistance in Al-'Urqub and that it is capable of opening more than one front.

PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN REJECTS UN RESOLUTION

NC201757Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1745 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Damascus, 20 March--Defying the UN Security Council resolution on southern Lebanon, a PLO spokesman said here today: We do not care about UN resolutions, and we will continue our armed struggle deep in occupied Palestine.

This statement was made by Hani al-Hasan, personal adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, to reporters before entering the big conference hall in the Meridian Hotel in Damascus to attend the third session of the emergency conference of the "steadfastness front", which began here this evening.

PALESTINIAN FORCES SHELL ISRAELI POSITIONS

NC201433Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1322 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 20 March--This morning the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces shelled the Israeli enemy's concentrations and artillery positions in the settlements of Metulla, Qiryat Shemona, and Kefar Gil'adi. They also shelled Israeli concentrations in Al-Qulay'ah and Marj 'Uyun with rockets, scored direct hits on the targets and caused a number of casualties among the enemy forces.

This came in a statement issued by a Palestinian military spokesman and released by the PLO office in Doha. The spokesman said that the joint forces carried out the shelling in retaliation for the enemy's concentrated artillery shelling and heavy rockets directed against the joint forces' positions in Al-'Urqub.

Military Communique Issued

NC210928Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0852 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 21 March--In a military communique issued a short while ago, a Palestinian military spokesman affirmed that fighting is continuing on several lines in southern Lebanon between the joint Palestinian and Lebanese forces and the Israeli forces until this morning and that the joint forces are bravely resisting the vicious Zionist invasion and inflicting heavy losses of life and equipment among the Zionist forces.

The spokesman adds that the enemy forces, supported by ranks and artillery, continued their operation along the Shab'a-Rashayya road throughout the night and that the joint forces clashed with them, destroying a bulldozer, one troop carrier and one armored car and killing five enemy soldiers.

In his communique, which was disseminated by the PLO office in Doha, the spokesman says that the enemy repeated his attempts to advance in the direction of Al-Burj ash-Shamali Camp in the Tyre area last night but that the joint forces defeated his forces, prevented them from achieving any worthwhile success, and destroyed three vehicles in the (Al-Hamadiyah) area.

The military spokesman's communique says that, using flare bombs, the Israeli enemy continued his air raids on scores of positions belonging to the joint forces in Tyre and Al-'Urqub. The statement adds that special groups of the joint forces launched attacks on several points behind the enemy's forces and supply routes and that they used machine-guns and artillery rockets, killing more than 20 Israelis.

The communique affirms that the advanced groups of the joint forces in most areas continue to successfully carry out their tasks within the enemy's lines despite yesterday's desperate attempts to locate the positions of these groups.

Israeli Boat Reportedly Hit

NC201441Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1350 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 20 March--A military spokesman of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese command has stated that the artillery of the joint forces has scored a direct hit on one of the enemy boats as it attempted to approach the seashore while enemy naval units were shelling the city of Tyre and Ar-Rashidiyah Camp.

In a statement released by the PLO office in Doha, the spokesman said that since noon today the joint forces have been intercepting the enemy's armored forces on the Burghuth-Qalbah axis. The statement said that the enemy had prepared the ground for this attack by heavy artillery and rocket shelling of the joint forces' positions in this region.

PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY RECEIVE SAM-6 MISSILES

NC180923Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0912 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 18 March--In a dispatch from Beirut, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS says that the Palestinian resistance has received SAM-6 missiles mounted on special tanks and that each one of these tanks carries six missiles and a launcher.

GULF STATES SUPPORT ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE

Qatar Welcomes Summit

NC191156Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1107 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 March--It was announced at Arab League headquarters in Cairo today that the State of Qatar has approved the convening of the Arab summit conference to discuss the present situation in Lebanon, a situation which has ensued from Israel's aggression against Lebanon.

Bahrain Supports Summit

NC191157Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1109 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Manama, 19 March--His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain, has welcomed the call made by His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan to convene an Arab summit conference as soon as possible on a date to be agreed upon by the Arab kings and presidents. The conference will work out a realistic program to protect the future of the Arabs from challenges.

KUWAIT TO ATTEND SPECIAL ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

NC191158Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1118 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 19 March--Kuwait has agreed to attend the Arab League special meeting on the level of foreign ministers. Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad called for this meeting yesterday to discuss the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon and adopt a unified Arab stand to confront it.

Kuwaiti State Minister for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn announced this after today's cabinet meeting. He added that his country considers it necessary to hold this meeting at Arab League headquarters in Cairo as soon as possible and that all parties must attend it because of the delicate circumstances through which the Arab nation is now passing.

'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn also said that at its meeting today the Kuwaiti Cabinet reviewed recent political developments in the Arab area, particularly the situation in southern Lebanon and Kuwait's various contacts in this regard. He added that the cabinet has decided to continue its contacts with the fraternal states to coordinate the stands at this important stage in the life of the Arab nation.

Answering a question on his country's opinion of the U.S. proposal on sending UN emergency forces to Lebanon, the Kuwaiti minister said: This proposal is still being studied by the Security Council. There is an Arab draft resolution in this regard. Contacts are continuing among the international groups at the council to prepare a draft resolution which would satisfy all sides and would be approved by the Security Council.

Asked if the dispatch of UN emergency forces to southern Lebanon would solve the entire issue, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said in the remarks he made after the Kuwaiti Cabinet meeting that he does not believe it would. However, we are interested in Israel's immediate withdrawal from the Lebanese territory and in maintaining Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity.

'ARAFAT ACCUSES WEST GERMANY OF COLLUSION

NC181320Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1326 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 18 March--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has accused the FRG of submitting to Zionist blackmail by preventing the PLO representative from attending the meeting of the Arab ambassadors with the foreign minister of Bonn. He said that this exposes the Bonn government's collusion and its suspect role in the current aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese people in southern Lebanon.

In a statement he issued in this connection, released by the PLO office in Doha, 'Arafat added that "what is more serious than this is that the Arab ambassadors agreed to attend this meeting despite the Bonn government's attitude toward the PLO representative." Concluding his statement, the Palestinian leader appealed to the friendly governments and the Arab governments to adopt a clear and frank attitude toward the Bonn government and to condemn this action by it.

BAHRAIN

CABINET MEETS; MINISTER DENOUNCES ISRAELI ACTS

JN191620Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1440 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 19 March--The Bahraini Cabinet today held its ordinary session under Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al Khalifah. The session opened its agenda with a study of the present developments in Lebanon and reviewed the current developments in the Arab region as well as the Israeli aggression against brotherly Lebanon and the Palestinian people.

In a statement broadcast by the Bahraini radio at noon today following the meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Jawad Salim al-Urayyid said that the cabinet strongly denounces the flagrant Israeli aggression against the sovereignty, independence and integrity of Lebanese territories, as well as the Israeli campaign to eradicate the Palestinian people.

The minister of state added that Bahrain, while following up these outrageous Israeli violations of the principles of international law and the UN Charter, calls on all states of the world to denounce and condemn this aggression, which represents expansionist, colonialist mentality and Zionist racism. The Bahraini minister of state for cabinet affairs added that Bahrain supports the convening of a comprehensive Arab meeting on the highest possible level to adopt an Arab stand in the face of these serious events, thus proceeding in accord with the Arab League Charter and Arab nation's aspirations. He then said that the Bahraini Cabinet has decided to send Lebanon medical and food supplies to help it in these conditions.

The cabinet then proceeded to discuss bills on general activities and completed its discussion of Bahraini oil policy.

BAHRAIN REPORTEDLY TO NATIONALIZE ITS PETROLEUM

NC181058Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0907 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 18 March--Quoting reliable gulf petroleum sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH says that Bahrain will nationalize its petroleum within the next few days and that a new draft agreement concerning this matter has been submitted to the Bahraini Cabinet. The agreement calls for complete state ownership of these resources. The paper says that this draft agreement covers crude oil production and the marketing of its locally refined products as well as shares of gas production not owned previously by Bahrain.

KUWAIT

WORKING PAPER TO BE SUBMITTED TO ARAB SUMMIT

JN200957Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0920 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 20 March--In a statement published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN today, Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah warned against the possibility of Israel being able to create a new reality and divert the attention of the world from the major issue--the Arab lands occupied since 1967--to the issue of Lebanon.

Shaykh Sa'd called on the Arabs to concentrate their efforts on the crucial issues despite the seriousness of the current situation in southern Lebanon. Shaykh Sa'd explained: Kuwait will work in collaboration with certain "Arab brothers" to prepare a positive and clear working-paper placing every Arab state before its pan-Arab and historic responsibilities. This working paper will be submitted to the Arab kings and presidents at the anticipated Arab summit conference.

QATAR

MILITARY INTERVENTION IN S. LEBANON CALLED FOR

JN181038Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0950 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 18 March--The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB today expresses astonishment at Arab hesitation to intervene militarily on the side of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

The paper calls for an Arab military landing in southern Lebanon to confront the Israeli invasion forces, because no matter how brave and capable the Palestinian resistance is, it cannot long resist the huge Israeli military concentrations and the land, sea and air attacks launched by a regular army which is backed by the U.S. arsenal.

AL-'ARAB says that this Israeli invasion can only be checked by effective Arab intervention to put a limit to Israeli arrogance. Any delay in Arab intervention means the fall of more Lebanese towns in the south and the martyrdom of more strugglers and thousands of defenseless civilians.

SAUDI ARABIA

PROPOSAL FOR ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE APPROVED

NC191054Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1047 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 19 March--SNA has learned that His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has approved the proposal made by his excellency the Arab League secretary general to convene an urgent summit conference to consider the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

CABINET MEETS TO DISCUSS LEBANESE SITUATION

LD202108Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] The cabinet held a 2 and 1/2 hour meeting today under Crown Prince Fahd ibn Abd al-'Aziz. The cabinet reviewed the situation in Lebanon and other issues.

"Information Minister Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani said that the cabinet expressed great concern over the Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon; many innocent persons have become victims of this aggression. The cabinet also strongly condemned the occupation of southern Lebanon, which clearly indicates Israel's desire to expand and to persist in the violation of rights. The cabinet expressed absolute support for the Palestinian people and their right to return to their homeland and to restore all their legitimate rights. The cabinet stressed the need for solidarity and unity of rank in order to prevent the measures which Israel is carrying out and which have no justification save the desire for more occupation and encroachment against the rights of innocent citizens.

"The minister added that the cabinet had stressed the necessity of joint action to expose the latest Israeli crimes before world public opinion, especially as all United Nations and Security Council resolutions have been flaunted by Israel, and after it has become evident that Israel does not want peace in any form. The cabinet stressed the kingdom's firm stand toward the Palestinian cause, which is the core of the conflict in the Middle East. Unless this issue is resolved in a basis of justice and a return to right, there can be no lasting peace."

'ARAFAT MESSAGE CONVEYED TO PRINCE FAHD

LD202049Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] This afternoon His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, received at his office in Al-Ma'dar Palace, Mr Adib Salim az'Za'nun, member of the Fatah Central Committee and deputy chairman of the Palestinian National Council, who handed his royal highness a letter from Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat to His Majesty King Khalid and to Prince Fahd. Mr Za'nun arrived in Riyadh earlier today for a short visit.

UAE

PRESIDENT RECEIVES LETTER FROM PLO'S 'ARAFAT

JN182147Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1940 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 March--His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a letter from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, thanking the UAE on behalf of the Palestinian pepple for its stand on the Palestinian cause. The letter was delivered by Mr Ribhi Hallum, alias Abu Firas, chief of the PLO Bureau in the UAE, during his meeting with his highness today.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Ribhi Hallum said that he briefed the UAE president on the latest developments in southern Lebanon. Shaykh Zayid, he said, lauded the heroism of the Palestinian people and fighters against the treacherous Zionist aggression.

YEMEN--PDRY

RUBAYYI' CONDEMNS ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

LD171535Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, chairman of the Presidential Council, received the French ambassador to the PDRY this morning. The two officials discussed Israel's incursion into southern Lebanon. "Brother Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali said that the whole world was required by its conscience to condemn the war of extermination being waged by the Israeli enemy against the Palestinian people and to work for the halting of the aggression and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces."

RUBAYYI' RECEIVES CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA

LD161535Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Presidential Council Chairman Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali today received Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca. During the meeting Salim Rubayyi' gave an account of the PDRY's major tasks this year.

"The discussion concerned ways of bringing about the development of consolidation of bilateral struggle relations between the two friendly peoples and countries. The ADEN NEWS AGENCY has also learned that during the meeting the comrade Cuban foreign minister transmitted to the brother Presidential Council chairman the greetings of Comrade Fidel Castro and the other Cuban leaders and their high admiration for what our party and people had succeeded in doing toward developing and extending relations."

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON S. LEBANON

JN202139Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued the following statement: By its criminal aggression against fraternal southern Lebanon, its violations of the Lebanese territory, and its waging a war of extermination against the sons of Palestine, innocent citizens and members of the Lebanese people, the Zionist enemy cabinet has confirmed its opposition to all human values and international conventions, and that it aims at occupying more Arab lands and justifying [as heard] all chances for just and lasting peace [as heard].

By its criminal acts Israel is fighting peace and is continuously working to prevent its achievement, defying by its policy all the peoples of this earth. The YAR people and government [word indistinct] this new Israeli aggression, asks the international community to act swiftly to guarantee immediate withdrawal from southern Lebanon and all the Arab territories under occupation. The YAR considers that the persistance of Israel's intransigence justifies the Arab countries' adopting stands which they will be obliged to adopt in self-defense and in defense of the Arab nation's legitimate rights, to preserve its interests and insure its present and future. The YAR calls on all friendly countries, with Iran in the forefront, to take economic and [word indistinct] measures, to tighten the boycott banning the delivery of strategic material to Israel and to seek to reduce enemy interests wherever they are found. This stand will be adopted by the YAR at any forthcoming Arab summit conference and through a working paper it will submit determining what should be adopted at the Arab and international level against the ugly Israeli tyranny, within the framework of the directives of the leaders and brother Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. The world countries and international organizations are called upon to stand seriously and firmly and to adopt various measures toward the Zionist settlement aggression in fraternal southern Lebanon. Without such a serious stand, the world will find itself facing an explosive situation in the Middle East region, which cannot be calmed down and which will endanger international peace and security.

DELEGATION TO TOUR ARAB STATES ON SUMMIT CONFERENCE

JN201510Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col Ahmad Jusayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office at the republican palace this morning brother 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, minister of foreign affairs. Al-Asnaj submitted a detailed report on the activities of our permanent representatives at the Arab League and the United Nations. Al-Asnaj then received from brother Al-Ghashmi the necessary instructions to form an official delegation to visit several Arab states in order to expedite the convening of an Arab summit conference.

AS-SADAT WELCOMES CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT

NC202352Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2339 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 March--The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that President Anwar as-Sadat has sent messages to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, King Husayn of Jordan and Lt Col Ahmad al-Ghashmi, chairman of the YAR Command Council. In a report in its Tuesday edition, AL-AHRAM says that in his three messages President as-Sadat welcomed the call for an Arab summit conference as well as any Arab effort to unify Arab attitudes toward the current events in the region. During the past 2 days President as-Sadat received messages from the three leaders dealing with the call for an Arab summit conference to discuss the present situation.

CAIRO RADIO COMMENTS ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

NC211441Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "The UN Security Council Resolution on Lebanon Does Not Provide a Solution to the Situation"]

[Excerpts] The recent events and developments in southern Lebanon since the Palestinian fedayeen operation near Tel Aviv have confirmed a basic fact regarding the Middle East problem--that the Palestinian problem is the essence and crux of this problem.

The Security Council adopted a resolution calling for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon without delay and for the stationing of UN forces to maintain order in the area. Israel is reportedly opposed to withdrawal and thinks that its forces and the rightist forces should take over what is called the task of maintaining order. In other words, Israel wants to consolidate its occupation of Lebanese territory on the pretext of maintaining order. The opinions of the parties concerned regarding this resolution differ as to what is acceptable and unacceptable in it.

In the midst of all this the basic fact, which Israel is doing its utmost to keep out of focus, remains the need for the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights and their right to self-determination. In light of all of this, we can see without difficulty that the Security Council resolution is just a temporary tranquilizer for the situation--that is provided the resolution is implemented without misplay by Israel.

The Security Council has adopted a resolution. No one knows whether Israel will accept the resolution or not. However, its agreement or refusal to implement the resolution will not change the state of affairs. Israel cannot live forever behind a fence of UN forces. Nor can Israel depend forever on its military strength and on maintaining the occupied Arab territories and rejecting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. This is the essence and crux of the situation. There can be no solution to the entire problem except through Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. This is what Egypt has called for and is still calling for.

There is one more point. The Arab peoples clearly realize that the situation demands, as it has always demanded, that the Arab position should be more realistic and positive.

AS-SADAT SPEAKS AT CAIRO COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

NC181055 [Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic, in a linkup with Cairo Voice of the Arabs, at 0920 GMT on 18 March begins a live relay from the Celebrations Hall at Cairo University Medical College to mark the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the college in Qasr al-'Ayni. The announcer reports President Anwar as-Sadat's arrival at 0930 GMT. After a recitation from the Koran, the celebration begins at 0933 GMT.

The dean of the Medical College, Yahya Tahir, begins to speak at 0941 GMT. He reviews the history of Qasr al-'Ayni institute and its activities. He then reviews the functions of the various branches of the institute. In conclusion, he thanks As-Sadat for attending the celebration and then presents the president with a gift from the College of Medicine.

The next speaker is the dean of the Pharmaceutical College, Dr Fa'iq Hashim. He begins to speak at 0948 GMT, reviewing the history of the Pharmaceutical College. He presents a medicine cup to President as-Sadat as a token gift on the occasion. The president is also presented with the key to the Pharmaceutical College.

The director of Cairo University, Dr Sufi Abu Talib, begins to speak at 1007 GMT, giving a review of Egypt's medical history.

Minister of Health Dr Ibrahim Badran begins to speak at 1023 GMT. He deals with various aspects of medical science, health service medical training.

Minister of Education and Scientific Research Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi begins to speak at 1035 GMT. He reviews the work and activity in the medical and research fields.

President as-Sadat begins to speak at 1045 GMT. He talks about medicine, medical services and medical education. He then speaks about the Medical College and its domination by foreigners from its inception. He then relates the circumstances of his arrest during World War II and his detention at a site in Qasr al-'Ayni, where he disguised himself as a doctor and fled. He then tells about a second visit he paid to the Qasr al-'Ayni after the 23 July 1952 Revolution. Speaking about today's visit, he expresses pride in Egypt's past, history and present and says that the Egyptians are now the masters of themselves and are building a new life. Today's society, he says, is one of socialism and love. Egypt's aim, he adds, is to realize prosperity.

The president then says that the armed forces have restored the confidence of the people and the world's faith in Egypt. He says that Egypt does not live on slogans and outbiddings and refers to the world's admiration of his initiative. Egypt, he adds, will never bow its head to anybody. He then says that he has asked the prime minister to begin immediate plans for a new building for Qasr al-'Ayni. President as-Sadat then expresses his gratitude to the doctors for what they did during the October war to save lives of members of the armed forces. The speech ends at 1113 GMT.

ADDITIONS TO AS-SADAT OCTOBER MAGAZINE INTERVIEW

The following additions and corrections to the item entitled "As-Sadat Grants Interview to OCTOBER Magazine," published in the 14 March Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT, are supplied from Cairo OCTOBER on 12 March:

Page D 6, starting at the end of the paragraph, should read: ... is the latter.

We are once again showing our mental shortcomings in the face of what is happening in the Horn of Africa.

Those who support the Soviet side call it an action of liberation and those who support the U.S. side say that the two states are dividing between themselves the Horn of Africa, the African Continent, the globe and the other planets.

Let it be that this is the position of the two superpowers. What, then, is our position?

Why don't we first liberate our pens and minds from poisonous expressions and slogans--slogans that drug our minds--and, as a result, our pens are put in leaflets that are written and printed in other countries.

If the United States is wrong in its attitude toward the Horn of Africa, then the Soviets' mistake is even greater and uglier.

Question: Mr President, if you would allow me, I would like to repeat the question about the initiative so that it might be more specific. In other words, is it the nature of the initiative at this stage that it generates sensational news or has the sensational aspects of it come to an end? If I may use a modern example, I would say: The initiative is like a spaceship that needs great thrust accompanied by flames, smoke and a rumbling noise. But once it has taken its place in orbit and the flames and the noise have died down, then the spacemen need some time to focus their lenses before they start photographing the earth, the sun and the stars at leisure.

Do you believe that this analogy applies to the dynamics of the initiative at this moment?

Answer: Exactly. If ...

Page D 8, fifth paragraph, last sentence, should be changed to read: Therefore, the contagion of health and reform must inevitably spread in every direction.

Page D 8, penultimate paragraph, starting near the end of the fourth line, should be changed to read: ...exist in it, which is a fact by which we may always confirm it is a natural family and not a fabricated or falsified family. However nothing turns ...

ASSEMBLY SESSION ADJOURNS; ABUSIVE REMARKS EXCHANGED

NC211522Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly resumed its meetings before noon today under Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mari'i. The session was devoted to debating the supply policy.

Assembly Member Mustafa Kamil Murad, leader of the Liberal Socialist Party, explained his views on the supply policy. However, Assembly Member 'Ashur Nasr interrupted the debate from his seat without permission from the assembly speaker and spoke abusive words. The assembly speaker asked him to stop, but he continued to interrupt. The assembly, at this point, decided to have him removed from the hall.

But Assembly Member Shaykh 'Ashur began to make abusive remarks. There was an uproar in the assembly. Members of the Al-Wafd Party, to which this member belongs, stood up to denounce his behavior.

Engineer Sayyid Mar'i decided to refer the matter to the Assembly Bureau to prepare a report on the behavior of the member, which is contrary to the constitution, the regulations and parliamentary customs. The session was adjourned until the bureau submits its report on the matter.

MOSLEM GROUP LEADERS REPORTEDLY EXECUTED IN CAIRO

NC190835Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 March--The death sentence passed on the five defendants in the case of the death of former Egyptian AWQAF Minister Muhammad Husayn adh-Dhahabi was carried out at 0500 today. Those executed were the head and leaders of the At-Takfir wa al-Hijrah group. Their names are as follows: Shukri Ahmad Mustafa, Mahir Bakri, former Police Officer Ahmad Tariq 'Abd al-'Alim, Anwar Ma'mun Saqr and Mustafa Ghazi.

Before the executions, which were carried out by 0700 today, the defendants asked that their bodies not be handed over to their relatives and that the Egyptian authorities bury them in the As-Sadaqah cemetery. It is known that the Egyptian authorities have liquidated this group, which had been illegally established.

DR BUTRUS GHALI LEAVES FOR INDIA, SRI LANKA

NC171930Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali left Cairo this evening for India and Sri Lanka on a 1-week visit.

Dr Ghali told the MENA correspondent that he is carrying messages from President Anwar as-Sadat for the presidents of India and Sri Lanka. Ghali will brief the officials in India and Sri Lanka on the latest developments in the Middle East since President as-Sadat's initiative in November and on the current Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. Dr Ghali added that during his stay in India he will discuss bilateral relations between Egypt and India and ways to promote nonalined policies.

YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN CAIRO FOR 8-DAY VISIT

LD180216Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 17 March--President of the Yugoslav Executive Council (Miloz De Piroflji) arrived in Cairo tonight on an 8-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Minister of Economy and Economic Cooperation Dr Hamid as-Sayih. During his visit the Yugoslav official will attend the Yugoslav national day at the Yugoslav Pavillion in the Cairo International Market. He will also meet with Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni and with the ministers of industry and agriculture, with whom he will discuss ways of strengthening relations between the two countries.

ENVOYS TO TOUR ARAB CAPITALS WITH ROYAL MESSAGES

JN181247Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] A number of Jordanian envoys will begin a tour tomorrow of the capitals of the Arab states, during which they will convey to the Arab kings and presidents royal messages related to His Majesty King Husayn's call for the convening of a summit conference to discuss the dimensions and results of the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. They will also clarify his majesty's concept of the late developments in the area as well as their dimensions in light of the current Arab reality.

Sharaf Meets With Saudis

JN201430Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and first deputy prime minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, received in Riyadh this morning His Excellency 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court. Sharaf handed his highness a letter from His Majesty King Husayn to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz related to King Husayn's call for an urgent Arab summit conference to discuss the situation which has resulted from the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. The meeting was attended by His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, and Rashad Far'un, special adviser to his majesty the king.

Sharaf Comments

JN202037Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] His Excellency ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, left Riyadh this afternoon for Kuwait. His Excellency ash-Sharif Sharaf has stated that he discussed with His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, the current Arab issues and developments in the Arab area after the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. He stated that they agreed on the necessity to call for the convening of an Arab summit conference to formulate a comprehensive Arab confrontation plan and to ward off the danger surrounding the Arab nation.

His Excellency ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf will also deliver a message from His Majesty King Husayn to the Amir of Qatar [as heard], His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali as-Sabah.

Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Algiers this afternoon from Benghazi to deliver a message from His Majesty King Husayn to Algerian President Houari Boumediene.

President Muammar al-Qadhdhafi received Hasan Ibrahim in Benghazi this morning and received from him a message from His Majesty King Husayn on the call for the convening of an Arab summit conference to study the latest current Arab situation.

Sharaf Arrives in Kuwait

JN202151Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] His Highness Prince Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, ruler of Kuwait, today received His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, who conveyed a message from His Majesty King Husayn dealing with his majesty's call for an Arab summit conference to study the current Arab situation, particularly in the wake of the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon.

In a statement to the JNA correspondent, Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, has said that His Highness Prince Jabir al-Sabah, ruler of Kuwait, has expressed his and his country's support for this idea, which aims at uniting the Arab position and rising to the level of the current circumstances and challenges. The Kuwaiti ruler stressed the necessity of careful preparation for such a pan-Arab meeting. He also stressed the need for preparing a suitable atmosphere for convening this meeting.

His highness affirmed that his viewpoint is in total agreement with that of His Majesty King Husayn regarding the gravity and delicacy of the current stage, and of the importance of expeditions and organized action.

His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf also said that His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and eputy prime minister, has affirmed that His Majesty King Khalid totally agrees with his brother His Majesty King Husayn regarding the necessity of convening an Arab summit conference as soon as possible in order to work out a sound plan to confront the expansionist danger and formulate a collective Arab program of action in various fields based on mutual trust, responsibility and sensing of the common destiny.

Khammash Visits Oman

JN201708Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharif, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, left Riyadh this afternoon following a short visit to Saudi Arabia during which he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Husayn to His Majesty King Khalid, dealing with His Majesty King Husayn's call for an urgent Arab summit conference to discuss the situation which has resulted from the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

Court Minister 'Amir Khammash arrived in Muscat today carrying a similar message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman.

AL-AKHBAR ON HUSAYN'S CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT

JN200705Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing under the headline "Genuine Solidarity in Defense of Survival, AL-AKHBAR says the following: The call for convening an Arab summit conference should not be considered as an ordinary incident under the present circumstances. It is a call based on confronting the blatant challenge represented by Israel's brutal aggression against southern Lebanon--aggression which constitutes part of the Zionist scheme based on expansion within the context of a limited timetable.

The Arab nation is requested today to set aside its differences and to bypass its contradictions so as to confront this fateful threat. The Arab nation is requested more than ever to confront this danger by unifying its forces and efforts so as to reply to this new vicious onslaught. The Arab governments are also requested to respond to the will of their people, who were angered by this aggression.

CABINET MEETS UNDER SARKIS, ADOPTS DECISIONS

NC202013Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1907 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] At 1830 today President Ilyas Sarkis presided over the cabinet's extraordinary session, which was attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the other ministers. The session ended at 2000.

At the outset of the session the president commented on the UN Security Council resolution calling on Israel to withdraw its forces from the south. The president said: Following the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, the government lodged a complaint with the Security Council and held intensive contacts with fraternal and friendly states prior to asking for a UN Security Council meeting which would pass a resolution.

I want in particular to point out that the resolution calls for respect of Lebanon's sovereignty and political independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. This is the first time that the UN Security Council has adopted a resolution in relation to Lebanon characterized by such strength and frankness, which we regard as a guarantee from the highest international authority.

The president said: Our efforts will be devoted to the implementation of all provisions of this resolution because Lebanon is today facing a crucial crisis intensified by the current events in the country, which constitute a challenge to justice and dignity. The president added: We will exert every effort at the Arab and international levels to consolidate our rights and preserve our dignity and will spare no efforts to establish sovereignty and law and order throughout all our territory.

Dr As-ad Rizq, minister of labor and social affairs and chairman of the Higher Relief Committee, informed the cabinet that he has been notified by the U.S. ambassador in Lebanon that the U.S. Government will supply Lebanon with 7,000 tents and 40,000 blankets which will be sent by special military aircraft within 1 month. The British ambassador in Lebanon also notified Minister Rizq that the British Government will provide Lebanon with 150 large tents and 5,000 blankets. The government has appealed to all fraternal and friendly states to provide aid to ease the plight of the evacuees resulting from the Israeli aggression on Lebanon. The cabinet decided to appropriate the necessary funds for relief operations, placing these at the disposal of the appropriate ministerial committee. The cabinet also decided to exempt evacuees being treated from hospital and treatment charges.

Sarkis Meets Ministers Before Session

NC201857Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Lebanese officials were busy today holding contacts and consultations concerning the situation in the south, following the issuance of the UN Security Council resolution, on the arrangements and measures which must be taken to speed up the implementation of the UN Resolution. President Ilyas Sarkis this evening held a meeting with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus in which he discussed the situation in light of the results of the contacts. President Sarkis then presided over an extraordinary meeting of the cabinet.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ISSUES RESOLUTION ON SITUATION

NC201610Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Resolution passed by Lebanese Chamber of Deputies during its 20 March session--read by announcer]

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies--meeting in open session on Thursday, 16 March, and Monday, 20 March 1978, after reviewing and discussing the situation resulting from the Israel forces' entry into Lebanese territory, and after acquainting itself with the reasons which Israel used to carry out its operation, and after taking cognizance of UN Security Council Resolution 425, dated 19 March 1978--unanimously declares that the violation of Lebanese borders and the sovereignty of the state constitute a grave violation of all principles of national right and international law and decides to ask the government the following:

1. To exert vigorous and intensive efforts to speed up the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution on the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territory.

2. To restore the legitimate authority without delay in order to exercise its authority, carry out its duties and maintain sovereignty over southern Lebanon and the rest of the Lebanese areas.

3. To adopt all urgent security and social measures, to extend relief to the refugees, to insure their return to their villages and to guarantee their safety in the south, as in any other area, town or village whose residents have become homeless.

4. To invite all the Arab states to share in shouldering the responsibility for the present situation in a practical and effective manner.

Al-Huss Statement

NC201725Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 1230 today the Chamber of Deputies met under the chairmanship of speaker Kamil al-As'ad. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, the other ministers and 65 deputies. Speaker al-As'ad opened the meeting by declaring it a closed session. He then asked Prime Minister al-Huss to take the floor. Al-Huss delivered the government's statement, the text of which follows:

When our government appeared before the Chamber of Deputies last July to present an account of the work which it had and had not carried out during the first 6 months since assuming power, we delivered a statement in which we said verbatim: That the key to a solution is political detente and that we will not be able in the next phase to solve any of the current vital questions, including the rebuilding of the army, the problem of the south, the evacuees problem and others. We will also not be able to proceed with the reconstruction operation in the desired direction without political detente. Detente cannot be forcibly imposed but should be founded on mutual conviction whose basis is faith in a unified Lebanon. This requires that detente not be attached to any other question and that no other question should take priority over detente.

If such a situation is created, then the government will be prepared to propose bases and will try to rally the Lebanese around these bases. But if such a situation is not created, then our government will be incapable of achieving what is demanded from it in the next phase. As a result the main questions, including the rebuilding of the army, the question of the south and the problem of the evacuees will remain outstanding and unresolved.

That was what we said at that time in complete frankness and clarity. The prime minister added: In compliance with the prevalent logic at the time, we attempted to give priority to the question of the south above detente. On attaching the south problem to the political detente issue, we definitely had two considerations in mind:

1. That detente would unite all the Lebanese as a group vis-a-vis all vital and fateful issues confronting the country, the foremost of which is the question of the south. In view of the size and dimensions of the problem, the way to handle it would only be possible together with detente.

2. That detente makes it easier to rebuild the Lebanese army on national, sound and solid foundations with the necessary speed enabling the restoration of security in the south and the reinstatement of the lawful authority in the area.

The prime minister added: It is known that, following 2 years of fighting, security was imposed by the Arab deterrent forces throughout all Lebanese areas except the south. This was because Israel opposed the entry of the deterrent forces beyond a specified line, which Israel called the red line, on the pretext that the closeness of the Arab deterrent forces to the Lebanese-Israeli border would threaten Israel's security. Of course, this Israeli pretext is unfounded and cannot be accepted by any intelligent persons.

As a result of the Israeli stand, the south remained without a regular force to maintain law and order. We had to conduct negotiations in order to establish security in the south. While security was imposed in other Lebanese areas, it was subject to negotiation in the south.

The prime minister added: Discussions were held with the PLO in cooperation with Syrian officials. The discussions resulted in the Shtawrah agreement on a specific schedule for the implementation of the Cairo agreement, which included three phases. The third and final phase is connected with the south. This phase--the phase of the south--was not implemented. Therefore, the area remained an arena of chaos, violations and lawbreaking.

Regarding the implementation of the Shtawrah schedule, Prime Minister al-Huss said: We have worked tirelessly to implement the last phase of the Shtawrah schedule. For this purpose we had to negotiate with more than one party regarding the steps for its implementation. Our efforts failed because we met with one condition here and another condition there and an obstacle here and an obstacle there.

The security problem of the south is the result of our inability to station a regular force there. On the one hand we were unable to send the Arab deterrent forces to the area because of an Israeli objection, and on the other we were unable to send a Lebanese Army deterrent force because the rebuilding of the Lebanese Army was delayed as a result of our failure so far to achieve national detente.

Israel has prevented the entry of the Arab deterrent forces into southern Lebanon because it has an interest in maintaining an abnormal and lawless situation in that area. It wants to maintain control of the situation, escalating it by fabricating incidents whenever it wants and using extortion tactics against the Arabs and their cause when it chooses by using the southern Lebanon card.

Prime Minister al-Huss asked: If Israel has an interest in having a bad situation in the south, does not our interest demand that we rebuild the Lebanese Army without delay on a sound national basis in order to establish security in the south and consequently assume the responsibility, together with the internal security forces, of establishing security throughout all of Lebanon? Shouldn't we have achieved national detente and speeded up the moves toward the rebuilding of the army in the most exemplary manner?

The prime minister continued: In view of the terrible dangers surrounding the Lebanese fate as a result of the treacherous Israeli invasion, and in view of the enormous human tragedy which the Lebanese in general and the southerners in particular are experiencing at this time as a result of the sinful aggression, we must rally and face our fate united and seek to restore the legitimate authority in the south and then establish security there, thus giving peace of mind to the suffering residents of the south.

Regarding the south as the basis of detente, the prime minister said: Let the issue of the south serve as the basis of the national detente which we all are seeking. Let us say it frankly and sincerely: The south is a dear part of our homeland, and there is no one among us who disclaims it. The establishment of the state authority over every part of Lebanon, above all in the south, is one of the Lebanese sovereignty rights which no one among us contests.

An end must be put to the abnormal and uncontrolled situation in southern Lebanon, which is plagued by violations and chaos, as soon as possible, by the return of the legitimate authority in the south. No one must be above Lebanese authority and no authority must be above the authority of the Lebanese State. Let us go ahead in our efforts to achieve national detente. On the basis of national detente we can go ahead to rebuild Lebanon. We are confident that there is no Lebanese who does not join us in the call for political relaxation through national detente.

As for the situation resulting from the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, everyone knows that we called for a Security Council meeting, and it has adopted the resolution which you all are aware of. Now we must all work to insure its implementation and take whatever steps are necessary to recover the occupied territory, as soon as possible, and to continue to confront the effects of the agression on the social, humanitarian and material levels with all the means at our disposal.

Sham'un Opposes Resolution

NC201818Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The political Bureau of the National Liberal Party met this evening at the home of Deputy Michel Sasin. It discussed all aspects of the present situation.

After the meeting [former] President Camille Sham'un said: The meeting this evening dealt with the issue raised at the Chamber of Deputies today. I could not attend the session because of certain circumstances. However, I do not at all agree with the proposal on which the Chamber of Deputies voted. Furthermore, the chamber was wrong to say that the resolution was passed unanimously. Nadim Salim and other deputies objected to the world "unanimous."

Answering a question, President Sham'un said: The task of the UN emergency forces will be confined to the south, if these forces manage to reach it that is.

KHADDAM MAKES STATEMENT IN BEIRUT, RETURNS HOME

JN172116Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Maj Gen Naji Jamil, minister of defense and commander of the air defense forces, returned to Damascus today after a short visit to Beirut where they met with President Sarkis and delivered a letter to him from President Hafiz al-Asad concerning the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

After his meeting with President Sarkis, Khaddam made a press statement in which he said that President al-Asad's letter to President Sarkis deals with Syria's support and backing to Lebanon against the Israeli aggression. He said that President Sarkis has entrusted him with a letter addressed to his brother Hafiz al-Asad. He added that during his meeting with President Sarkis various aspects of the situation as well as the various eventualities were discussed.

On the Syrian stand on the Lebanese call for a UN Security Council meeting, Mr Khaddam said that the issue was discussed and he has learned that Lebanon decided to ask for a UN Security Council meeting. Mr Khaddam said Syria and the Arab states stand by fraternal Lebanon against the Israeli aggression and in support of a withdrawal from all Lebanese territories. Khaddam said: The Lebanese forces, by which I mean the Lebanese Army, has the right to protect the Lebanese south, to regain authority over the Lebanese territories and to remove the occupation. He added that the Lebanese Government is studying all these issues from the standpoint of the national interest. The contacts, he said, are continuing between the two fraternal countries.

In reply to a question on whether the issue of sending deterrent forces to the south was discussed, he said: We discussed all the issues because the aggression is not aimed only at Lebanon but at the Palestinian cause as well. He added: What is going on in the south is part of a general plot related to the attempts to impose settlements of capitulation on the Arab nation. Undoubtedly, the minister added, the Zionist enemy made use of the present Arab situation, which resulted from the visit by the president of the Egyptian regime to occupied Jerusalem and his dialog with the Israelis. He said that the aggression against southern Lebanon cannot be isolated from this plot which aims at liquidating the Palestinian cause, splitting the Arabs and giving the Zionist enemy more gains. Mr Khaddam affirmed that Syria stands with all its ability by the side of the Lebanese and Palestinian people. He called on the Arab nation to exert further efforts in the various fields to liberate the occupied Arab territories, to preserve dignity and to defend national rights.

PREMIER AL-HUSS LEAVES FOR TALKS WITH AL-ASAD

NC210838Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left Beirut for Damascus this morning. He will convey an oral message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad from President Sarkis concerning the current situation resulting from the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon.

Before leaving, Prime Minister al-Huss said he will exchange points of view and coordinate attitudes with the Syrian officials. He said the talks will deal with the developments in the security and political spheres in light of the resolution issued by the UN Security Council stipulating an Israeli withdrawal from the southern areas and deployment of UN forces there.

MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM HUSAYN; AMBASSADORS RECEIVED

NC211016Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis received the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Beirut this morning. After the meeting the charge d'affaires said: I conveyed a message to President Ilyas Sarkis from King Husayn within the framework of the fraternal relations between the two countries. He said that the message is similar to the messages which the Jordanian monarch sent to the Arab kings and presidents. These messages are connected with the call for convening an urgent Arab summit conference to discuss the deteriorating situation in southern Lebanon.

Saudi Ambassador Received

NC201305Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 1030 today President Ilyas Sarkis met with Saudi ambassador Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir. After a 30-minute meeting, the Saudi ambassador made a statement in which he said: This meeting is a continuation of the meeting I held with His Excellency President Sarkis before my departure for Saudi Arabia. I conveyed to his excellency today the results of the discussions I held with senior officials of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and also Saudi Arabia's position on some of the issues previously discussed. I told the president that Saudi Arabia stands with fraternal Lebanon and condemns the aggression and is vigorously working for the early withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

Asked whether Saudi Arabia supports the resolution to dispatch UN forces to southern Lebanon, the ambassador said: Saudi Arabia supports any wish made by and acceptable to Lebanon.

Asked whether he conveyed to President Sarkis the intention of Saudi Arabia to assist the refugees, he said: There is no doubt that the kingdom, as always, will contribute to whatever will prevent harm from coming to the Lebanese citizens.

Asked about his expectations regarding the withdrawal of the Israeli forces after the arrival of the UN forces, the ambassador said: I think so. Talks are currently taking place between us and the Palestinians which we hope, God willing, will produce good results.

British Ambassador Received

NC201437Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At about 1330 today Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with the British ambassador to Lebanon, Peter Wakefield, at the request of the ambassador. They discussed the Security Council resolution and the steps dealing with the dispatch of UN forces to Lebanon. The British ambassador informed Prime Minister al-Huss of his country's readiness to extend urg ntly needed aid to the refugees from southern Lebanon.

OFFICIALS COMPLAIN TO UNSC ABOUT ISRAELI OCCUPATION

NC210552Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Lebanon has again complained to the Security Council because Israel has not yet complied with the Security Council's resolution and has not withdrawn from the south. Israel replied that it is prepared to withdraw from the south as soon as sufficient international forces are secured and a pledge is made not to allow any Palestinians to enter the south. UN informed circles expect that the operation of stationing international forces in the south will not be easy, because the study of the area and the distribution of 4,000 soldiers will take at least a month.

LATEST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS, UN ACTIVITY REPORTED

NC210609Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Although over 24 hours has passed since the UN Security Council resolution on southern Lebanon was issued, the resolution still requires further measures to guarantee its full implementation. Meanwhile, Israel continued its military operations throughout yesterday and last night, concentrating its land, sea and air bombardment on the towns of Tyre and an-Nabatiyah. Three Israeli planes dropped scores of flares over these areas during last night.

Israel radio has said that Israeli military operations will continue today. The Lebanese UN permanent delegate, Ghassan Tuwayni, has submitted a protest to UN Secretary General Waldheim against continued Israeli military operations despite the UN Security Council resolution stipulating an end to the fighting and immediate withdrawal.

AL-JUMAYYIL CRITICIZES UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

NC201808Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Commenting on the UN Security Council resolution on the situation in southern Lebanon, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: It is not right that the aim of the UN forces should be to safeguard Israel's security at the expense of Lebanon's security, while Lebanon continues to suffer from the problem (?of Palestinian considerations).

Al-Jumayyil wondered what could the council's resolution be driving at in its third clause, which says that the council has decided, in light of the Lebanese Government's request, to immediately deploy under its auspices a temporary UN force in southern Lebanon in order to consolidate peace and security and to assist the Lebanese Government in insuring the restoration of its effective authority in the area.

Does this mean that Lebanon will be able, with these forces, to restore its authority in the south? Where are the borders of this area in which the UN forces will operate to help Lebanon restore its authority? Will the UN forces be strike forces on the southern borders? Or will their tasks be limited solely to observation.

Al-Jumayyil added: The matter transcends the south. The latest Israeli attack has made it imperative that the Palestinian presence in the southern and other Lebanese areas be specified and organized.

But perhaps there is a solution which all Lebanese should ask for; namely: That all the Arab states or the Arab League--if this league still exists--create a unified Arab arrangement which will deal with the Palestinian presence in the Arab countries and organize it according to Arab resolutions to be applied to each of the Arab League countries.

SIILASVUO: UN VANGUARD FORCES TO ARRIVE 21 MARCH

NC2107l4Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The commander of UN forces in the Middle East, Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, has said that the vanguards of the international forces scheduled to be dispatched to Lebanon will arrive in the south today.. He said he will arrive in Beirut today for talks with Lebanese officials because there are several complicated problems which require a solution.

Regarding the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, Siilasvuo siad after a meeting he held with Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman yesterday that so far no time table has been drawn up for the withdrawal. He said Israel will not agree to a vacuum being created in the south that will be exploited by the Palestinian fedayeen for their return to the area. Thus, the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution on southern Lebanon will begin with the arrival of international forces in the south.

Siilasvuo Arrives

NC211022Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] General Siilasvuo, the commander of the UN forces in the Middle East, arrived in Beirut this morning. He is accompanied by Maj Gen (Erskine), who has been appointed commander of the emergency forces in Lebanon. The two men will coordinate with the Lebanese authorities regarding the deployment of UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon.

IRAQI AID REPORTED ARRIVING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN201639Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--Thirty-one trucks arrived in Lebanon carrying aid to the joint forces of the Lebanese nationalist forces and the Palestinian revolution. Reporting this, REUTER says that 31 Iraqi trucks were seen heading toward An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon on the coastal road. This aid is aimed at confronting the Zionist invasion.

Quoting official Iraqi sources, REUTER reports Iraq began as of last Friday to ship military aid to the Palestinians and the forces of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

AL-ASAD DISCUSSES ISRAELI ATTACK WITH JORDANIAN ENVOY

JN191709Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] At 1330 today President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with the new situation in the Arab region as a result of the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. Viewpoints were exchanged on what this situation requires from Arab steadfastness and confrontation in the face of this aggression, using the plentiful resources and potentials of the Arab nation, particularly after what has been ascertained about Israel's insistence on continuing its invasion, aggression and expansion.

Amman TV Report

JN191853Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hasmemite Court, this afternoon. In a statement to the JNA Damascus correspondent after the meeting, Ash-Sharif Sharaf stated that he conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother His Majesty King Husayn dealing with the current Arab situation, particularly the recent Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the serious situation resulting from Israel's new occupation.

He said that His Majesty King Husayn's message contained a call for holding an urgent Arab meeting to assess the current situation from various local and international angles, to draw up a unified working plan based on mobilizing Arab resources and formulating this plan in the various domains to confront the threat, to establish the basis of Arab steadfastness and to define the common objectives.

He added that the discussion also dealt with the various aspects of the close fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries--Jordan and Syria--within the framework of confidence and fraternal cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Immediately upon his arrival in Damascus today, Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf held a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The meeting was attended by the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

SYRIA REPORTEDLY ACQUIRES MIG-25'S FROM LIBYA

NC210850Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0827 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 21 March--The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH reports today that Syria received two squadrons of Soviet MIG-25 aircraft from the Libyan JAMAHARIYAH in the past 3 days. The paper adds that Syria's acquisition of these planes will provide a quick advanced cover for Syrian skies and will achieve a strategic balance with the Israeli armament.

The Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS carries a dispatch from Beirut saying that the Palestinian resistance has received 60 vehicles, ammunition, field rockets and spare parts for the artillery via Syria in the past 2 days.

The same paper quotes a Palestinian spokesman as saying that the resistance received large quantities of arms via Syria during the same period.

KHADDAM RECEIVES U.S., SOVIET AMBASSADORS

JN181349Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1000 today 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Richard Murphy. At 1100 today Khaddam also received Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Yuriy Chernyakov.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES LEBANESE PARTY DELEGATION

JN201516Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] This morning Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, received a delegation of the Lebanese Patriotic Front leadership led by the front secretary general, Kamal Shatila. After welcoming the members of the front's leadership, comrade al-Ahmar exchanged views with them on the current developments in the area, particularly the Zionist aggression in southern lebanon. The two sides also reviewed the action of the Patriotic Front in the Lebanese arena, its role in facing the aggression and the tasks required by all the Arabs to oppose the new aggression and to struggle against the Zionist-imperialist conspiracy and against capitulation and defeatism.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed that the Zionist-imperialist onslaught is aimed at ending the existence and entity of the Arab nation, by driving this nation into peripheral problems, or by enabling the Zionist enemy to continue its expansion at the expense of Arab rights and territories.

Al-Ahmar also stressed the necessity of mobilizing all the Arab nation's potential and capabilities to support the strugglers andthose opposing the Zionist-imperialist invasion. The Arabs must assume their pan-Arab responsibilities to face the Zionist aggression and must not give in to the aggressor's will.

The comrades and brothers thanked the comrade assistant secretary general for his explanation of the current developments in the Arab area. They also hailed Syria's firm and prineipled pan-Arab role in the face of the Zionist-imperialist conspiracies. They also stressedthe necessity of implementing the steadfastness summit resolutions to provide the steadfastness front in Syria with support.

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN210944Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss arrived in Damascus this morning. He was received at the border by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES MONGOLIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

JN192030Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At 1930 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr Bandzar, assistant minister of foreign affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic, and the delegation accompanying him. The president was handed a letter from President Yumjaagiyn Tsedenbal, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural.

Mr Bandzar expressed the support of the Mongolian People's Republic for the Syrian Arab Republic in its struggle against imperialism and Israeli aggression and for the achievement of a just peace in the area on the basis of total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the guaranteeing of the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

The president thanked the Mongolian People's Republic for this stand. The talks dealt with ways of further consolidating friendship and cooperation relations between the two countries.

Official Concludes Visit

JN201832Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The following press statement was issued today on the visit to Syria by Mr Bandzar, assistant minister of foreign affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic: At an invitation from the Syrian foreign minister, Mr Bandzar, assistant minister of foreign affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic paid an official visit to Syria from 17 to 20 March 1978.

Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, received the Mongolian guest, who handed him a friendly message from Yumaagiyn Tsedenbal, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the Mongolian guest and held friendly talks with him. The Mongolian guest handed Khaddam an official invitation from Mongolian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mangalyn on behalf of his government to visit Mongolia. Khaddam accepted the invitation with thanks.

The assistant foreign minister briefed the Mongolian guest on the achievements attained in Syria in all fields, particularly those attained after the corrective movement in 1970 under instructions from President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic. He also briefed the guest on the economic and social developments taking place in Syria. He also briefed him on the foreign policy pursued by Syria. In their talks the two sides concentrated on the current situation in the Middle East. The assistant foreign minister pointed out Syria's stand toward the Middle East issue and the latest developments, particularly Syria's denunciation of separate negotiations and agreements. He also explained Syria's stand toward finding a just, permanent and comprehensive solution to the Middle East question. This solution can only be achieved on the basis of complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territory occupied in 1967 and the fulfillment of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their rights to self-determination, to return to their homes and to establish their independent state.

The two sides condemned the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab land, particularly the practices of repression, racial discrimination, persecution, evacuation of Arab people and establishment of settlements on their land. All these measures contravene international laws and UN resolutions.

The two sides discussed the latest Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, which has again unmasked Israel's expansionist aims and its determination to vanquish the Palestinian resistance.

The Mongolian assistant minister of foreign affairs expressed his appreciation of and his country's support for the efforts being made by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to unify the Arab ranks.

The two sides also discussed the coming special UN session on disarmament. They stressed their support for this new effort, which they consider to be an important stage for the preparation of the anticipated international conference on disarmament.

The two sides noted the current developments in detente and stressed the need to strengthen this attitude in a manner that would cover the whole world, including Asia, to which the two countries belong.

The two assistant ministers of foreign affairs stressed the need to insure the suitable circumstances to unify Korea peacefully in response to the interests and aspirations of the Korean people.

The two sides stressed their support for the liberation of the African continent from imperialism and colonization, and for the liquidation of the racist regimes in order to enable the peoples of Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia to exercise their right to self-determination and independence. They condemned the evil alliance between the racist regimes of Israel and South Africa.

At the end of the visit the Mongolian guest expressed his thanks for the warm welcome accorded him and the delegation accompanying him during their stay in Syria. He expressed his wishes to the Syrian people for further progress and better life.

The Mongolian guest and his delegation left Damascus this afternoon for home at the end of their visit.

FIRST ROUND OF SYRIAN-HUNGARIAN TALKS OPEN IN DAMASCUS

JN211013Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The first round of talks between the Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, National Command member and head of the Foreign Relations Office, and the delegation of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP], led by Jeno Fock, member of the MSZMP Politburo, was held at the National Command building yesterday evening.

The discussion revolved around the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the MSZMP and between Syria and Hungary in the various political, economic and cultural domains, and around the means to consolidate and develop these relations.

Jeno Fock emphasized the stand of the MSZMP and the Hungarian people in support of the Arab people's struggle to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Jeno Fock also stressed the MSZMP stand rejecting Egypt's policy and the Egyptian regime's recent steps aimed at making separate deals in the service of imperialism and Zionism and against the Arab masses' interests, Israel's current aggression against Lebanon and Israel's occupation of a part of Lebanon are a result of the Egyptian policy. Jeno Fock expressed his party's condemnation of this Zionist aggressive act against Lebanon, an act which expresses its expansionist nature. He also expressed his appreciation for Syria's efforts aimed at intensifying the front of steadfastness as was manifested at the steadfastness summit conferences in Algiers and Tripoli. He asserted the support of the Hungarian party and people for this front to enable it to confront the imperialist and Zionist schemes in the area.

Comrade Sayyagh explained to the visiting delegation the significant gains achieved in Syria in all domains under the Ba'th Party. He emphasized the firm and principled political course of the Ba'th Party in continuing the struggle against the imperialist and Zionist schemes as well as against As-Sadat's capitulatory steps and the policy of separate solutions being pursued by As-Sadat. The party will also continue the struggle to establish a genuine Arab front of steadfastness to confront As-Sadat's treasonous policy and foil its consequences and to liberate all the occupied Arab territories, insure the inalienable and national rights of the Palestinian people, and support their struggle to regain these rights--above all their right to determine their future and to set up their independent state under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Comrade Sayyagh also discussed the Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the occupation of southern Lebanon, a matter which indicates [word indistinct] imposing capitulation on the Arabs. In addition to the fact that this aggression has exposed Israel's nature and the imperialist acts of extortion, it has also exposed the extremely tragic and miserable situation in the Arab world as well as the nature of Arab relations. The degree of the seriousness of certain Arab sides to confront the Zionist-imperialist threat menacing the entire Arab nation has also been unveiled.

Comrade Sayyagh said: This is the regrettable status of the Arab nation and we must admit this reality so we can find the ideal methods--or even a minimum of these methods--so as to insure the development of the intrinsic Arab power to confront Israel and create a strategic balance with the enemy that would act as an opening for the stage of scoring victories over the enemy on the road to liberating the occupied territories and restoring the usurped rights of the Palestinian people.

Comrade Sayyagh added: First, we must admit the facts so as to define the responsibilities and realize and understand what has and has not taken place. Second, we must define the urgent as well as the long-range steps necessary to change the balance of power and to utilize the intrinsic Arab power in the battle. Shedding tears is not useful and giving advice while standing thousands of miles removed from the frontline is something anyone can do. Outbiddings and exaggerated (?criticism) without serious and realistic action on the frontline is only part of the enemy's psychological warfare. It is abnormal for some Arabs to have piles of gold while others are deprived of food. It would be a fatal mistake to believe that any Arab is isolated from the Zionist and imperialist ambitions. Lebanon is the best example of this.

ALGERIA

SOVIET ENVOY RECEIVED TO DISCUSS ISRAELI ACTION

LD172040Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Abdelaziz Bouteflika, foreign minister, today received the Soviet ambassador at the latter's request. The ambassador handed the minister a communication from his government relating to the situation in the Middle East arising from the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon which aims at the liquidation of the Palestinian resistance. The Soviet ambassador seized this opportunity to reaffirm the stand of his government toward the Palestinian question. The Soviet Union stresses its support for the just question of the Arab peoples, particularly of the Palestine people and the PLO, which is regarded as the sole legitimate representative of their aspirations. The Soviet Union also stresses its effective solidarity with the countries of the steadfastness and confrontation front which met in Tripoli and Algiers and also with the other progressive forces in the Arab world.

The meeting, which was characterized by cordiality and friendship, reflected the need for intensive consultations between the countries of the front, which are supported not only by all freedom and peace-loving forces but also by the majority of the international community. The Soviet-Algerian talks also dealt with measures which should be taken to thwart this new Zionist aggression against the Arab nation which threatens the territorial integrity of Lebanon and constitutes a challenge to the international community.

LIBYA

ARAB, SOVIET LEADERS SEND MESSAGES TO AL-QADHDHAFI

Soviet Message

LD181043Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1024 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary, [words indistinct] at the headquarters of the Foreign Secretariat received Anatoliy Anisimov, Soviet ambassador to the Jamahiriyah. A MANA correspondent has learned that the Soviet ambassador conveyed to the foreign secretary a message from the Soviet leaders addressed to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi about the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

Jordanian Message

LD210918Y Tripoli JANA in English 0854 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Benghazi, March 21, JANA--Mr Al Hasan Ibrahim, the Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, left Benina International Airport yesterday on his way home after having held one-day talks in Tripoli. The Jordanian minister had handed a written message from King Husayn to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1st of Sept. Revolution in connection with the current situation in the Arab native land.

Syrian Message

LD211108Y Tripoli JANA in English 0908 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 21, JANA--Dr Abdullah Sa'adah sent yesterday the following cable to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great 1st of Sept. Revolution.

"To the fighter Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Sept. Revolution, (?amid) [word indistinct] retreat, and Arab collapse, your marvelous message to Lebanon, the National Movement and the Palestinian resistance as well as your clear revolutionary stand have had the greatest effect of reinforcing the morale and hopes of the revolutionary fighters who are sacrificing their blood for the sake of the nation's dignity on the soil of Lebanon invaded by the barbarous Zionist forces.

The greatest point about your stand is that the practical and generous commitment in strengthening the revolutionaries has come ahead of the courageous word. On behalf of the Lebanese National Movement which I have the honor to represent in the Permament Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress (?and also) on behalf of the Syrian National Socialist Party which I have the honor to lead, please accept the sincerest appreciative feelings from those who have crowned the world with blood and sacrifice."

"Rest assured that a nation which delivers such a leader and a revolutionary like you, who would give everything to save its dignity and honor, will not be defeated. We will keep marching along the course of struggle, martyrdom and victory."

Signature:

Dr Abdullah Sa'adah, head of the Syrian National Socialist Party and representative of the Lebanese Movement in the Permanent Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

FOREIGN SECRETARY RECEIVES CABLE FROM YASIR 'ARAFAT

LD1818O4Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 18 March, JANA--Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary, has received a cable from brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and general commander of the Palestinian revolution forces, in which he said that the Zionist forces continue to shell southern Lebanon, aiming at women and children. Yasir 'Arafat denied in his cable to the foreign secretary the claim by terrorist Begin that fighting in southern Lebanon has stopped.

SUDAN

PARTY CONDEMNS ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

LD171152Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The Central Committee of the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU] last night unanimously approved proposals by President Numayri to condemn the Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon and to form provincial committees to collect donations in support of the Palestinian revolution against brutal Israeli aggression.

A PLO representative in Khartoum has thanked the SSU Central Committee for its decision to form Palestine aid committees. "He said this proves fraternal Sudanese support for the just cause of the Palestinian people and their right to establish an independent state in their own country."

JORDAN'S OFFERS TO AID WAR EFFORT REPORTED

TA202011Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Jordan has announced that it is permitting volunteers to join in the war against Israel in southern Lebanon. Instructions to this effect have been given to border posts. Jordan has also announced that the training bases of its army are open to any man wanting to train there. The Jordanian Health Ministry has sent a first supply of blood to the Palestinian Red Crescent headquarters in Damascus.

CABINET HOLDS SPECIAL SESSION ON LEBANON ISSUE

TA201255Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 21 Mar 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Two hours ago the cabinet met in Jerusalem in a special session. Here is our political correspondent, Shalom Qital, to report on that session:

Israel is not enthusiastic--to use an understatement--over the Security Council resolution last night. The resolution determines that Israel must withdraw from southern Lebanon and that a UN force is to be stationed in the area.

The UN force cannot, in Israel's view, solve the problems which caused the terrorist activity in southern Lebanon, which, in the end, led to the need for the large-scale IDF operation. Israel is proposing the formation of a Lebanese force which will contain the terrorist activity there and a commitment by Syria, which controls the routes from northern Lebanon to the south, that the Syrians will prevent the movement south of terrorists, their equipment and supplies.

Israel will in the end withdraw from southern Lebanon--the objective, after all, was not to conquer the area for a long period of time--but the withdrawal will certainly not be a mad rush south into Israel.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin will try, in his talks in Washington, to formulate a program which will guarantee calm in southern Lebanon, a calm which no UN force will be able to maintain on its own. Here I must add that the prime minister is leaving New York for Washington tonight with the feeling being quite grim about the position the Americans have taken and the unexpected haste with which they greeted the Security Council resolution and did not wait for clarifications and discussions with the Israelis, at least to hear the proposals Israel brought with it in order to solve the situation in southern Lebanon.

By the way, speaking about the stationing of a UN force in southern Lebanon--up to this moment no movement of UN forces has begun toward southern Lebanon. Ensio Siilasvuo, the head of the UN observers in the area, in the Middle East, will meet with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman after the cabinet session in order to determine how the UN observers will be deployed. Here in Israel there have been several consultations: the deputy prime minister, Prof Yiga'el Yadin, yesterday consulted with the defense minister and the chief of staff and after the Security Council resolution was passed he also consulted on the telephone with Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who is in New York. This was followed by the cabinet meeting today.

Statement on Session

TA201508Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The cabinet maintains that any settlement in southern Lebanon must insure that the region no longer serve as a base for the terrorists and their murderous activities and that the welfare and well-being of Israel's and Lebanon's citizens be guaranteed. This is included in a statement made following an extraordinary cabinet session. The cabinet met as the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs.

The cabinet statement reiterated that the IDF conducted the operation in southern Lebanon in order to purge terrorist nests which spread death and destruction among the civilian population in Israel and Lebanon, and not in order to conquer territory.

The cabinet heard a report from the minister of defense and discussed yesterday's Security Council resolution.

UN GENERALS MEET WITH WEIZMAN, GUR ON SITUATION

TA201610Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 20 Mar 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] As of tomorrow small UN units will maintain a symbolic presence in southern Lebanon. However, a timetable for the withdrawal of Israel's forces from the region has not yet been determined. This was stated this afternoon by the commander of the UN forces in the Middle East, Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, after he held a coordination meeting with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur. Tomorrow General Siilasvuo will leave for Beirut where he will hold parallel talks with Lebanon's foreign and defense ministers as well as with the Lebanese chief of staff. The commander designate of the UN force in southern Lebanon, Gen (Emmanuel Erskin) from Ghana, who was also present at the meeting, said afterwards that Israel has not expressed any reservations about the Security Council resolution.

Our correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports on the Siilasvuo-Weizman meeting. [begin recording]

At about 1300 [1100 GMT] the commander of the UN forces in the Middle East, General Siilasvuo, and the commander designate of the UN force in southern Lebanon, UNICIL, General (Erskin), arrived at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem where they were awaited by the defense minister and the chief of staff. Half an hour later, when the meeting was over, the two UN people came down from the offices and met with correspondents. General Siilasvuo began.

[Siilasvuo--in English] I had this first meeting with Mr Weizman. I am sure there will be many more because this is a very complicated matter, as you understand. Tomorrow I hope to meet the Lebanese minister for foreign affairs and the chief of staff and I shall continue my discussions on the same subject with them.

[Hakohen] When will the first UN units enter the field, General Siilasvuo was asked, and he answered:

[Siilasvuo--in English] There will be a small unit as a symbolic presence.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] When?

[Siilasvuo-in English] Maybe tomorrow.

[Hakohen] Afterwards, General (Emmanuel Erskin), the commander designate of the UN force in southern Lebanon, was asked questions. The Ghanaian general was asked: Do you believe that the UN force which you will be commanding will be able to prevent the terrorists from returning to southern Lebanon? His answer:

[Erskin--in English] At the moment we are hopeful we should be able to enforce--execute the task given us. It is difficult to (?say anything) much better because we are still negotiating for the forces to come to the area.

[Hakohen] Has Israel expressed any reservation about the UN resolution, he was asked. While on his way outside he answered: No. Israel is cooperating with us as far as possible.

On the Israeli side, the defense minister and the chief of staff refused to answer correspondents' questions on the contents or the meeting with Generals Silasvuo and (Erskin). The defense minister told the correspondents that the press conference that he and the chief of staff will hold this evening at 1830 [1630 GMT] will give them all the answers. [end recording]

WEIZMAN, GUR GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE ON LEBANON SITUATION

TA201830Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 20 Mar 78 TA

[Report on press conference by Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur in Tel Aviv on 20 March--from the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] First to the IDF forces in Lebanon who were supplying aid to the civilians. Fighting has stopped meanwhile, except for some exchanges that could be heard here and there, and the defense minister and chief of staff found time to convene a press conference in Tel Aviv for a first review, perhaps, or the IDF operation at its present scale in southern Lebanon. We are reporting on this press conference in part, at present. We will be returning to it later on, but first, our military correspondent Roni Dani'el: [begin recording]

Up to the moment there is no UN force on its way to southern Lebanon, the defense minister said. If one arrives, he was asked, will we prevent its entry?

[Weizman] No force arrives and enters just like that. There are negotiations, there are deliberations, we ask one another, where? if at all? why? how? To our regret we have a lot of UN experience and no UN force turns up suddenly saying, here I am, I have come to put things in order. There will be discussions about this. In the main we are seeking a solution for southern Lebanon. I repeat for the umpteenth time--do not think that we want to sit there. Believe me, the IDF is prepared to get up and come home today and return from southern Lebanon, but it will not leave a vacuum there [words indistinct].

Look, there are a few points which we will discuss: one of them I have said--no terrorists south of the Litani--and that the Tyre strip not become a concentration for terrorists and the kind of port that it has been up to now; relations with the southerners, as we have mentioned. These are certain fundamental things on which we will insist.

[Dani'el] The aim of the operation, Lieutenant General Gur said, was to hit the terrorists, their bases and weapons. The plan of the operation was, at first, directed at creating a security belt. The chief of staff said, Ibelieve that ir we had had from the outset a plan to reach the Litani River we would have chosen a different plan. The first stage was completed as planned.

The second stage began for two reasons--one, the surrender or the villages; two, the beginning of talks about a settlement and the possibility that UN forces would be introduced. It was important to create a situation in which the IDF would be in control of maximum territory and the Litani River serves as a natural borderline for any force.

Here the chief of staff went on to define the necessary elements to prevent terrorist activity in the field:

[Gur] In order to make this the most efficient possible from a military point of view it is to control the Litani River bridges [as heard]--three bridges--Al-Qasimiyah bridge, which controls the Tyre strip; ('Akkiyah) bridge that leads to the center of southern Lebanon and (Hardalah) bridge that leads to the region of Marj 'Uyun. Further east--we are talking about a bridge that crosses the Hasbani River--Shaq'ah bridge. Whoever holds these territories can control, in a satisfactory manner, what happens on the routes to southern Lebanon.

In southern Lebanon there are a number of junctions, large villages and, closer to the border with Israel, key regions which we took on the first night when we spoke about a security belt. If we go from west to east the region of Ra's al-Bayyadah, on the seashore; in the center we have the Marum ar-Ra's-Bint Jabayl area; opposite Rahim and Misgav 'Am we have At-Taiyiba ridge and on the Fatahland front, what we call the (Naqurim) ridge--a ridge that controls the roads coming from 'Abaqah south. On this front (?they) split further south to the region of Metulla. These territories must be controlled by some force or another if we want to prevent terrorist activity on the southern front. The port of Tyre should be maintained as a purely civilian port and it must cease to serve as a port for importing war materials for the terrorists.

[Dani'el] In all these places, as well as in the townships of An-Nabatiyah, which is near our border, and of Hasbayya, which is at the southern opening of Fatahland, the force that is to be in southern Lebanon must maintain a permanent presence in order to control and prevent terrorist activity. In addition to this, the chief of staff says, local units should be established--a combination of a gendermerie and militia in which the local residents will serve. [end recording]

The newsreel goes on to other subjects and later returns to the press conference, which was still going on at the time of the broadcast.]

[Announcer] We have managed to edit the second part of the press conference that took place this afternoon with the defense minister and the chief of staff. Our military correspondent Roni Dani'el will present it now: [begin recording]

IDF soldiers who fell in the fighting, the chief of staff said, were injured mainly during the fighting to create the security belt, where IDF soldiers were fighting in built-up areas and against fortified targets that the terrorists had prepared. The second stage was easier, the terrorist deployment had collapsed, for all intents and purposes, and Lebanese villages raised white flags. The chief of staff said that on one occasion a certain village raised white flags and when IDF soldiers entered fire was opened on them from several directions and here, too, there were injuries.

[Gur] A few words about the IDF. First of all, I pointed out, and I should point out, that in my estimation, there was a wonderful mixture of discipline and initiative at all levels.

This is one of the main problems facing the senior command--you can be too disciplined, in which case you have virtually nothing to do, or you can use too much initiative in which case you do not pay sufficient attention to directives. I must say that from all the department heads here in headquarters via the commander of the [northern] command and the commanders of the forces in the field there was a good mixture of initiative and discipline. I can say that the directives from the government and the general staff were implemented to the letter. In a war that is not purely a military war but a war in a populated region with a lot of political limitations, this is, in my opinion, something of great importance to the senior command of the IDF.

A second issue--throughout the operation we were able to follow the responsibility and care of the field commanders. I, personally, must say that it was possible to notice a high standard of combat (?experience) in most field commanders. No one had to prove himself anew.

[Dani'el] No special movement was noticed among the Syrian troops--neither on the Golan Heights, nor in Lebanon. The only place where we thought that the Syrians had fired was when a missile was fired at one of our planes, but there were terrorists in that area as well. The chief of staff said, as far as we know there was no Syrian firing at our troops. In some cases the Lebanese villages were fortified and, sometimes took an active part in the fighting. The IDF forces faced the problem of how to hit the terrorists when they mingled with the civilian population.

[Gur] We faced a problem, and we had to decide--in every area and in every village--what tactic to use and to what extent we could use all the means at our disposal. I assess that all in all we found the right path. There are villages which were badly hit and there are villages which were moderately hit and there are villages which were not hit at all. I can only express the hope that in the future all the villages will prevent the entry of terrorists because those we hit after several years of hostile activity, we would have preferred not to harm, but they brought the strike upon themselves by their behavior against our civilian population over several years. [end recording]

More on Press Conference

TA201946Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 78 TA

[Excerpt] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said that in any settlement in southern Lebanon Israel will demand that the area up to the Litani River be terrorist free. Minister Weizman also stressed Israel's commitment to the Christians, saying that their ties with Israel would be considered and their situation would not worsen. The defense minister announced that IDF forces would allow all villagers who escaped from their homes to return. He was speaking with correspondents in Tel Aviv.

Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur said, on the same occasion, that if the firing on our settlements from the region of An-Nabatiyah continues, the IDF will continue its operation and will act against that township.

Further Details Reported

TA202131Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 20 Mar 78 TA

[Text] This evening Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman told correspondents that Israel has a moral commitment to renew Lebanese sovereignty in the southern part of the country.

At the same time, he said, we will continue to do everything so that southern Lebanon will not be a base for the terrorist organizations and for hostile activities against Israel. At the moment there is not, in fact, a cease-fire because two are required for this. As soon as this is proposed we will agree, because the IDF has completed its operation. Weizman said that Israel will allow all the civilian refugees to return to their homes and will even provide them with all possible aid.

The IDF has begun to grant medical services to the population. Israel hopes that the population will trust the IDF and leave their hiding places. The defense minister explained that the IDF had advanced from the narrow strip that it conquered last week and had reached its present positions along the Litani River because the residents of the villages had asked the IDF to enter. However, the IDF decided not to conquer Tyre and Ar-Rashidiyah but to stop at a distance of 3 and 1/2 km from them because of the large civilian population in these places.

In connection with this, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Gur explained that Tyre is not only one of the terrorist strongholds in Lebanon. There are others which are no less important in the north.

The chief of staff announced that the IDF had lost 18 killed in the fighting in southern Lebanon. Three of the soldiers were killed in an accident. Three others fell in one of the villages, the residents of which had raised white flags to signify their surrender. When an IDF column entered the village it was caught in an ambush and three soldiers were killed. The column withdrew, attacked again and conquered the village.

Lieutenant General Gur said that 250 terrorists are known to have been killed in the fighting. However it is possible that more were killed. He estimated the number at 400. Twenty terrorists have been captured and are being detained.

DOUBTS EXPRESSED ABOUT UN INTERIM FORCE

TA210631Y Jerusalem POST in English 21 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau]

[Text] Israel is still not satisfied that UNIFIL, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, will be able to keep the south of the country free of PLO terrorists. Israel's doubts apparently account for its slow and equivocal reaction yesterday to the Security Council decision to set up the force.

By last night there had still been no official statement formally accepting the Council resolution, despite a lengthy cabinet meeting earlier in the day.

There were indications from Defense Minister Weizman and others that Jerusalem still hopes the UN force will be given stronger powers than indicated in its terms of reference, and that the south Lebanese Christian militia will be recognized as part of the peace-keeping operation, in advance of their incorporation into a retuilt Lebanese army.

While the Christian militiamen have often embarrassed Israel by their unruly and sometimes cruel behavior this past week, Israel still sees itself interested in, and morally responsible for, their future safety and their ability to defend themselves.

There is some fear in Jerusalem that a UN force would regard it as its duty to disarm the Christians. (UNTSO officers have been harassed and robbed by the Christians for several months now.)

More fundamentally, there is concern that the UN force will prove inadequate to prevent the PLO from returning to the area once Israel pulls out. Knowledgeable sources here point to a number of key formulations in the Security Council resolution and in the subsequent terms of reference, drawn up by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, which, they say, are grounds for their concern.

--There is no linkage in the resolution between Israeli withdrawal, demanded in paragraph 2, and the entry of the force, created under paragraph 3. Israel had insisted that these actions proceed almost simultaneously, so as not to leave a vacuum which the PLO could exploit.

In his term of reference, moreover, Secretary General Waldheim says specifically that he "envisages the responsibility of UNIFIL as a two-stage operation. In the first stage the force will confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory to the international border. Once that is achieved, it will establish and maintain an area of operation as agreed to by the parties concerned."

--The resolution speaks of the force's "restoring international peace and security," thereby seeming to minimize the UNIFIL's role in countering the PLO within Lebanon.

--The resolution charges UNIFIL with "assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area." "Assisting implies a request for assistance, and thus appears to limit the force's freedom of action to requests from Lebanon's Syrian-influenced government.

--The force is required under its terms of reference to "use its best efforts"--a vague and undemanding formula--"to prevent the recurrence of fighting and to ensure that the area of operation is not utilized for hostile activities of any kind."

--Waldheim cites UNEF and UNDOF as suitable patterns to be applied, mutatis mutandis, as guidelines for the new force. Thus, he writes, "the force will be provided with weapons of a defensive character...."

UNEF's and UNDOF's weapons are similarly characterized--and they do not include armored vehicles, which Israeli observers consider essential in combating the PLO. Thus, too, "it (UNIFIL) shall not use force except in self-defense"--another provision taken from the UNEF/UNDOF precedent which, in Israeli observers' view, severely curtails UNIFIL's effectiveness.

"Self-defense," Waldheim explains, "would include resistance to attempts by forceful means to prevent it from discharging its duties." Here the objection among Israeli observers is to "forceful means," which significantly constrains UNIFIL if it is to be an effective antiterror unit. It will apparently have no powers to arrest, to search, or to use force against persons who simply ignore its orders.

While Israel had not yet formally accepted the resolution setting up the force, observers felt that Defense Minister Weizman's meeting yesterday with UN Mideast commander Gen Ensio Siilasvuo could be seen, if not as outright acceptance, at least as a clear indication that Israel will not reject the UN force or refuse to cooperate with it.

ISRAEL WILL KEEP OPEN OPTION FOR IDF RETURN TO LEBANON

TA201139Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Mar 78 pp 1, 15 TA

[By Razi Guterman]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin intends to tell U.S. President Jimmy Carter in their first meeting tomorrow at the White House that Israel reserves the right to send its forces to southern Lebanon again, if the UN peacekeeping force proves ineffective in keeping terrorists away from the area, sources in the prime minister's party told MA'ARIV during the flight from Tel Aviv to New York.

Mr Begin hopes to convince the Americans that the UN forces should be deployed along the Litani River, from where they could supervise movements of men more efficiently.

One of the prime minister's advisers thinks that in order to insure that the terrorists do not return to their bases, Israel should propose that the Lebanese Army and the Phalangist forces be in charge of order and security in the area between the Israeli border and the Litani, while the UN forces be stationed only along the river to prevent the infiltration of terrorists.

IDF TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS IN S. LEBANON

TA210617Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Mar 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] IDF forces will this morning continue with combing operations for terrorists in southern Lebanon. Parallel to this, they will carry out actions of aid and rehabilitation for the civilians left in the villages. The IDF artillery fired during the night at terrorist targets. Our correspondent Yosi Helman reports:

IDF forces will this morning continue consolidating and setting up the line in southern Lebanon. We have learned that there is no intention of entering Tyre or the refugee camps around it. Most of the military activity will, then, be concentrated on activities of combing for terrorists and mopping up the last nexts of opposition, if such still exist. It is worth mentioning, as the defense minister emphasized last night, that the IDF has in fact completed its operation in the area. At the moment everyone is expecting developments on the political level, and, particularly, the possibility that the initial UN forces will reach southern Lebanon by today, as was hinted by Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, commander of the UN forces in the Middle East. This morning aid activities for the civilians will also continue, particularly regular supplies of water, food and medical aid. IDF Chief Rabbi Maj Gen Gad Navon, is due to arrive in the area, together with a group of Moslem qadis from Israel, to hold burial ceremonies for the Moslems who were killed in the fighting. The famous "aunts" of the Soldiers' Welfare Committee will also come to hand out gift parcels and purim rations for the soldiers.

GUR: CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS SEEKING REVENGE ON VILLAGES

TA210656Y Jerusalem POST in English 21 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Chief of Staff Mordekhay Guy revealed yesterday that the Israel Defense Forces had encountered problems in protecting the inhabitants of some of the villages taken in southern Lebanon from acts of revenge and looting by Christian soldiers who came in on the army's trail.

The chief of staff refused to give details. But he said there had been cases of looting "and much worse...." The army has strict instructions to prevent this whenever possible, but he pointed out in the heat of battle it is not always possible for Israeli soldiers to do so.

The Jerusalem POST learned last week of several cases of excessive behavior by Christian forces in villages taken by the IDF--behavior which was attributed to the animosity that the Christians feel for the inhabitants in villages such as Al-Khiyam and Bint Jubayl, which were terrorist headquarters for years and which caused the Christians untold suffering.

The POST learned of one case, just a week before the fighting started, in which terrorists had dragged a captured Christian militiaman by his thumbs behind a jeep for several kilometers and then threw what was left of his body back into Christian territory. The incident, and others like it, undoubtedly prompted much of the Christian behavior.

ROMANIAN REACTION TO LEBANON OPERATION CRITICIZED

TA191406Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 19 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[Excerpt] In a talk between the director general of the Foreign Ministry, Mr E. 'Evron, and the ambassador of Romania, Mr Covaci, Mr 'Evron referred to Romania's announcement expressing "total rejection" of the IDF operation in Lebanon, which is regarded by Romania as a grave blow at the sovereignty of Lebanon and as endangering the peace process.

Mr 'Evron rejected the unbalanced description and expressed amazement over the fact that Romania did not mention and did not condemn the PLO's acts of murder which reached a peak last Saturday, 11 March, and the aim of which was not only the destruction of the people in Israel, but to sabotage the efforts for peace.

'Evron reiterated that Israel honored the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon, but had been forced to act in self-defense. "The absence of condemnation of the acts of murder is a factor disturbing the advancement toward peace in the area." he concluded.

TERRORIST TELLS REPORTERS ABOUT TEL AVIV OPERATION

NC191424Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1155 GMT 19 Mar 78 NC

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Husayn Ibrahim Mahmud Siyad, 18, is one of the two terrorists who were captured following the attack on the bus last Saturday evening. At a press conference in Tel Aviv today, the terrorist, who was born in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, revealed that he lived in Cairo, where he attended high school and completed a year at a teachers training college. Our correspondent Beni Rom reports:

Husayn Siyad joined the Fatah organization as a volunteer a year ago. He volunteered for family reasons. The short, redhaired and bearded terrorist is unable to go into operative details about the operation and its nature and is unable to give details about the rest of his colleagues in the unit. Siyad received his training in Al-'Izziyah in southern Lebanon. He volunteered for the operation in Israel. He then received training in swimming, handling explosives, handling all types of weapons, and in fighting in developed areas. He received this training in Ad-Damur and Al-Qasimiyah.

The terrorist, who chainsmoked Marlboro cigarettes and wore an IDF work uniform, said that he and his colleagues set out from Tyre port on 8 March. They reached the coast off Israel on the second day. The operation was planned by Abu Jihad, who personally supervised their training. The two boats made a navigational mistake and after 2 days they spotted lights and sailed toward the coast. He confirmed that one of the boats overturned and two of his colleagues drowned.

They questioned the female photographer on the beach and then killed her in order to maintain the secrecy of the operation, he said.

Husayn Siyad also gave details on how the unit seized the buses and on the shooting along the road.

Siyad said that the primary objective of the operation was to seize a big building, most probably a hotel, in Tel Aviv. In return for the hostages whom they would seize, they were to request the release of five terrorists held in Israeli prisons. He does not know the names of these five terrorists. If this demand was not met, he said, their plan was to kill all the hostages--women, men, and children and later to blow themselves up.

The terrorist could not answer my question as to which ship guided them to their destination. He said that he is being treated well, and therefore he has not yet asked to meet with Red Cross representatives. He also pointed out that he had not been forced to appear at this press conference and that he has been promised nothing.

DAVAR COMMENTATOR: ATTACKS ON BREZEZINSKI COUNTERPRODUCTIVE

TA191940Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Mar 78 p 6 TA

[Dov Eppel commentary: "There Has Never Been a Brezezinski Riddle"]

[Text] Teddy Preuss determines in his commentary "The Brezezinski Riddle Was Solved Long Ago" (DAVAR 16 March) that the explanation for Prof Zbigniew Brzezinski's attitude toward Israel and toward the U.S. President's policy, which is formulated with the advice of his adviser on national security affairs, can be found in Brezezinski's article in FOREIGN AFFAIRS, to be more precise--in one of the ideas appearing in that article.

The reference is to the following sentence: "To introduce into the framework of U.S. foreign relations the ideological reasoning of a struggle between democratic-liberal forces and various doctrines of despotism and statism is counterproductive, for a doctrinaire coalition is thereby created against the United States." I have not read the article quoted above, but with all due respect to both the U.S. President's adviser and our colleague, T. Preuss, the idea put forward in the FOREIGN AFFAIRS article proves grave lapses in Professor Brzezinski's memory and his remarks sound like something between blindness and a pretense at innocence. Even before Dr Zbigniew Brezezinski's article appeared, U.S. policy was not scrupulous about ideological criteria in choosing allies, friends and those under its aegis, although it used these ideological reasonings in its struggle with the Soviet Union and the communist world in general. The regime of Nationalist China, later that of Taiwan, has been and is antidemocratic--no less than the regime of the People's Republic of China. Chiang kai-Shek was a nationalist autocrat who scorned the democratic-liberal principles no less than did Mao tse-Tung. The difference between the Kuomintang regime and that of the People's Republic of China can be found, even from the point of view of John Foster Dulles, in the fact that the former was anticommunist and the latter was orthodox communist.

Its aid for Chiang kai-Shek to defeat Mao was not given for ideological reasons and not for the sake of the defense of Chinese democracy, but was in accordance with the interests of the United States.

President Nixon and his adviser on national security affairs, Prof Henry Kissinger, decided that the United States had to reach a rapprochement with Mao and his regime not because in 1972 Communist China joined the democratic-liberal forces in their fight against the despotic-statist forces, but because U.S. interests demanded an increased dialog with communist, anti-Soviet China.

The United States sent its soldiers to the slaughter fields of Korea not because the regime in South Korea was one of the democratic-liberal forces while the regime in the north, Communist Korea, supported a despotic-statist doctrine, but because U.S. interests demanded the containment of the spread of communism in South Korea, because this would have brought in its wake, in its evaluation, the spread of Soviet influence over all of Asia.

It is also no secret that the United States supported the incorporation of Franco Spain into the NATO alliance and this was not actively sought by it only because most of the European members of the North Atlantic alliance opposed such a thing. For lack of an alternative, Washington contented itself with a bilateral pact with despotic Spain, which guaranteed it military bases in that country. Let us further point out U.S. support for the establishment of the colonels' regime in Greece and its close ties with the totalitarian Arab regimes in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf principalities. It is worth clarifying and recalling that the White House followed the advice of Prof Zbigniew Brzezinski even in the days when Zbigniew spoke Polish better than he spoke English and his father, the erstwhile Polish consul in Germany, was not yet dreaming of exile in Canada or of his son's brilliant career.

All these facts prove that Teddy Preuss attaches undue importance to an old outworn idea which appeared in Professor Brzezinski's article in FOREIGN AFFAIRS. Furthermore, it is very doubtful whether there is any point at all in digging into the articles and writings of politico-professors in order to find in their theoretical essays, which are divorced from complicated reality, explanations for the moves they make as politicians, when they achieve a status similar to that of Kissinger or Brzezinski. What logical connection is there between Brzezinski's opposition (expressed in the article quoted by T. Preuss) to the introduction of the "ideological reasoning of a struggle between democratic-liberal forces and despotic-statist forces into the framework of U.S. foreign relations," and the introduction of human rights into the framework of President Carter's foreign policy, at a time when Brzezinski is his chief adviser. After all, according to Brzezinski's view in FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Jimmy Carter would have had to refrain from expressing any view whatsoever on human rights in the Soviet Union, in Czechoslovakia or in Ethiopia, because this definitely contradicts the U.S. interest in fostering good relations with any state without regard to the nature of its regime.

In fact, in the final analysis, there has never been a Brzezinski riddle, but the caseccould nevertheless serve as an example of how fictitious problems are created.

In fact, it could have been expected in advance that one of these days Jews in Israel and the United States would be found who would throw the sin of anti-Semitism in Dr Brzezinski's face, just as it could have been expected that his predecessor in the role of adviser on national security affairs to the U.S. President would be accused of ignoring his national origins (anyone remember the shouts of "Jew boy?") and of an attempt to prove, as a frustrated and assimilated Jew, his concern for the United States by giving preference to the interests of the Arabs over those of Israel.

Some of those who, openly or otherwise, cast these accusations at Henry Kissinger, the adviser on national security affairs and former U.S. secretary of state, are now rushing to meet with Professor Kissinger who is already being considered a good Jew and one who loves Israel.

It is not surprising that the present adviser on national security affairs, the Pole from Warsaw, Zbigniew Brzezinski, hears from U.S. Jews (and not only Americans) quite transparent hints that his opposition to the policies and ideas of the current prime minister of Israel or his foreign minister are connected with his origins. After all, it is well-known that every Pole is an anti-Semite (in fact, practically every "Goy") apart from certain exceptions (such as Brzezinski's father, who, as Polish consul in Nazi Germany, acted to save Jews and whose name has been perpetuated, because of this, in the Jewish National Fund Book). It is not, then, surprising that Brzezinski prefers the interests of the United States in the Arab world over those of Israel.

However, it is also not surprising that Brzezinski is rejecting these accusations and that he regards them as an attempt at blackmail on the part of Jews who feel that the claims they are putting forward to President Carter in order to convince him of the justice of Begin's and Dayan's views are not gaining appropriate attention. The truth is that if only Washington and Jerusalem listened more attentively to the advice or evaluations of Professor Brzezinski it would emerge that he is not an evil troublemaker for Israel.

A few months ago a report appeared, which was not denied, to the effect that in a talk with a high-ranking Israeli diplomat Brzezinski made it clear that it was possible to interpret the concept of insignificant border changes, in the framework of a comprehensive settlement between Israel and its neighbors, as changes on the order of 20-30 km.

When this report appeared, President Carter's adviser was the recipient of a healthy portion of hints about his hostility toward Israel. It now appears that, had the prime minister of Israel taken note of Brzezinski's interpretation, he would possibly not have rushed into conceding the entire Sinai to As-Sadat and afterward getting into complications over the question of the Rafah approaches and the airfields in Sinai.

The truth is that Brzezinski, like Kissinger and like many Jews in Israel and in the United States, thinks that there is no contradiction whatsoever between the historic commitment the United States shows to Israel and the global interests of the United States, although there are contradictions between particular immediate interests.

Kissinger and Brzezinski did not invent the brilliant idea that you can't mix up two entirely different things and that it is not even moral to sacrifice the interests of the United States on the altar of beautiful ideals. To tell the truth, this is how Israel also acts, sometimes even with a healthy degree of exaggeration (the affair concerning the military aid for the wars of the tyrannical regime in Ethiopia and the reasoning to justify this).

It is worth recalling that Zbigniew Brzezinski serves as adviser on national security affairs to the President of the United States and that it is his duty also to advise Jimmy Carter according to the best of his understanding on the problems of the Middle East and Israel-Egypt relations.

While Rabbi Schindler, Prime Minister Begin and Foreign Minister Dayan are not accepted as advisers to Professor Brzezinski and President Carter. These circumstances cause the fact that from time to time there are marked differences of opinion between the President and his adviser and the politicians of Israel or Jewish public figures in the United States. [paragraph continues]

However, it would be very regrettable if the personal attacks on Brzezinski drive away from Israel U.S. figures, Jews and non-Jews, who are not prepared to accept lovingly descriptions such as "Jew boy" or "Polish anti-Semite."

Who knows, maybe a day will come when the tendency to condemn as a traitor or as an anti-Semite any public figure or statesman who does not agree with the views of those standing at the head of the regime in Israel and their supporters will disappear.

At the beginning of his commentary, T. Preuss writes: "The increasing clashes between Israel and the Jews of the United States and the U.S. administration are focused on the image of the adviser for national security affairs whom, justifiably or not, they see as their main adversary." It is possible to disagree with Philip (Klotchnik), with Senator Ribicoff or with Nachum Goldmann and it is possible to disagree with Israeli Jews who agree to this or that extent with the views of these people, but there is no point in expelling these and many like them from Israel as a whole, just as there is no point in setting up Brzezinski as the chief adversary in the dispute with the Begin cabinet. We have more than enough enemies and it is not wise to make an attempt to create others through careless talk and lack of tact.

NAVON WILL NOT SUBMIT CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENCY

TA202241Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Mk Yizhaq Navon said that he would recommend from the bottom of his heart that Elimelekh Rimalt be a candidate for the presidency. He said this after he announced that he would not submit his candidacy. MK Navon said that were he to run and fail he would pave the way for the election of the prime minister's candidate. The candidate, Professor Yizhaq Shave, is an anonymous person, Yizhaq Navon said, and he was chosen by Mr Begin mainly because he comes from the oriental community. In MK Navon's opinion this is not a fitting manner in which to make a choice and the candidate should be a person whose life's achievements are there for all the public to see. Our correspondent says that Dr Rimalt will announce if he agrees to submit his candidacy on the day after tomorrow.

RIMALT SUBMITS CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENCY

TA202242Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2145 GMT 20 Mar 78 TA

[From the Late-Night Newsreel]

[Excerpt] I have decided to submit my candidacy for the presidency. So said Dr Elimelekh Rimalt to our correspondent Ben-Ziyon Guy. Dr Rimalt told our correspondent that his decision was not influenced only by MK Navon's decision not to submit his candidacy. [begin recording]

In the wake of Mr Navon's decision, several Knesset members from the Liberal Party and outside the Liberal Party, from the coalition and the opposition appealed to me and expressed their support for me. I have been in touch with friends all day on the telephone--some visited me--at any rate, with some of them. I can tell you at this moment only this--a short while ago I decided to answer the Liberal Party's proposal in the affirmative and I will submit my candidacy. [end recording]

BANGLADESH

CHINESE VICE PREMIER MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT

Li Hsien-nien Arrives 18 March

BK1808344Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0605 GMT 18 Mar 78 BK

[Excerpt] The Chinese vice premier, Mr Li Hsien-nien, was given a warm and hearty welcome when he arrived in Dacca this morning on a 4-day official visit to Bangladesh. He was accompanied by his wife, Madam (?Lin Chou-nien).

As the distinguished visitors alighted from the plane, President and Begum Ziaur Rahman received them. The vice president, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, was also present. Two small children presented bouquets to the Chinese vice premier and his wife. Mr Li Hsien-nien was then conducted to a specially raised dais from where he took the salute and reviewed the guard of honor presented by a smart contingent drawn from the three services. The national anthems of the two countries were played.

President Zia then took the distinguished guest to the line of presentees who included members of the president's Council of Advisers, diplomats, service chiefs and high officials. Representatives of the Bangladesh-Chinese Friendship Association and Chinese nationals in Dacca were also present. Airport ceremonies over, the Chinese vice premier, accompanied by the vice president, Mr Justice Sattar, drove in a motorcade to Banga Bhavan where the distinguished guests are staying.

Talks Begin

BK1817444Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 18 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The prospects and various aspects of economic cooperation between Bangladesh and China were discussed by President Ziaur Rahman and Chinese Vice Premier Mr Li Hsien-nien at the first round of their official talks in Banga Bhavan this evening. The talks lasted for 2 and 1/2 hours.

The Bangladesh leader at the talks was assisted, among others, by Vice President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, his advisors on foreign affairs, education, agriculture, commerce, industries, flood control and water resources, railways and foreign secretary and the Bangladesh ambassador to China. The Chinese leader was assisted, among others, by the foreign minister, Mr Huang Hua, the vice minister for economic relations with foreign countries, Mr Cheng Fei, and the Chinese ambassador in Dacca, Mr Chuang Yen.

The Chinese vice premier called on President Ziaur Rahman before joining his delegation to the official talks. At the end of the talks, the foreign secretary, Mr Tabarak Hussain, told newsmen that the two sides exchanged information about their respective countries and views on the international and regional situation.

The foreign secretary said during the talks President Ziaur Rahman gave a detailed account of the political situation as it (?existed) in the last two years and [word indistinct] on economic development programs, taking in various sectors, including agriculture, population control and mass education. He said both sides spoke highly about economic progress in their respective countries.

President Zia also spoke about the exploitation of Bangladesh in the last two centuries by foreign powers and told the Chinese leader that for a short time the [words indistinct]. Referring to the foreign policy of Bangladesh, President Zia mentioned his visits to foreign countries, especially in Nepal Pakistan and India. Mr Li also explained the foreign policy of his country during the talks.

Li, Zia Speak at Banquet

BK190921Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 19 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Chinese vice premier, Mr Li Hsien-nien, has held out a categorical assurance that China will remain a trustworthy friend of Bangladesh in safeguarding her independence and sovereignty and developing her national economy.

Speaking at a banquet given in his and his wife's honor by President and Begum Ziaur Rahman in Dacca last night, Mr Li said Bangladesh and China are close neighbors and there is a long traditional friendship between the people of the two countries. He said: Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, friendly ties and cooperation between them have developed satisfactorily on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

Mr Li said the economic cooperation, exchanges of trade and cultural delegations and friendly contacts are constantly increasing between the two countries. He expressed his happiness that Bangladesh, under the dynamic leadership of President Ziaur Rahman, is advancing in firm strides along the road of independent development.

The Chinese vice premier said: United as one and showing a high sense of patriotism, the people of Bangladesh have carried on an unremitting struggle to safeguard their national independence and sovereignty.

Referring to the recent visit of President Ziaur Rahman to some of the South Asian countries, Mr Li said the Bangladesh leader has made a positive contribution toward the improvement and development of relations between the countries of the region. He said the people of South Asian countries, having suffered long from the imperialist and colonial oppression, now need an environment of peace and stability. But, he pointed out that intense rivalry between the superpowers has long caused intranquility in this region and posed a grave threat to the independence and security of the countries of the region.

Earlier, welcoming the Chinese vice premier, President Ziaur Rahman reiterated the firm resolve of the people of Bangladesh to safeguard their hard earned independence and sovereignty in order to manage their own affairs according to their own aspirations and (?genius).

He said: Today, the people of Bangladesh are engaged in a relentless struggle to accelerate the pace of their national development through the self-reliance process.

Referring to the rapidly growing relations between Bangladesh and China, President Zia said this relationship, both in depth and dimension, will continue to grow to the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries. He said: Bangladesh is committed to a policy of creating an environment of enduring peace and stability in the South Asian subcontinent so that its people can devote all their energies and resources toward providing their people with the basic conditions of a decent life.

The president said: We have sought to develop good relations with all countries particularly with our neighbors on the basis of mutual respect for sovereign equality and noninterference in one another's internal affairs. He said that it was in consonance with this policy that he recently visited Nepal, India and Pakistan; and his talks with the leaders of these countries have reflected broad similarity of views of many issues of mutual concern.

The president said: We believe and we have reaffirmed in various forums that international peace, stability and cooperation can be strengthened only through a scrupulous observance of the principles of integrity, justice and fair play. He said: Bangladesh is very much distressed to observe that the deteriorating situation in the Middle East and southern Africa is posing a serious threat to global peace and security.

The president reaffirmed that the peace in the Middle East is possible only through a just settlement on the basis of complete Israeli withdrawal from all illegally occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem, and the restoration of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to their homeland.

Similarly, he said, peace can be established in southern Africa only through the elimination of racism and the transfer of power from the minority racist regimes to the true representatives of the majority in Zimbabwe, Namibia and Azania.

The president said: Bangladesh believes that the Indian Ocean should be declared a zone of peace and we support the UN resolution in this regard.

Referring to the need for creating a new and just international economic order, the president said efforts and sacrifices that the developing countries are making to accelerate their economic development are being largely frustrated by the unjust and irrational economic system prevailing today. He called for the creation of an economic system to insure a larger share of investment and a larger participation in the world production efforts by the Third World countries and fairer terms of trade and with a substantial flow of real resources from the developed to the developing countries.

Sattar Fetes Li

HK201019Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 20 Mar 78 HK

[Text] The vice president, Mr Justice A. Sattar, has said the people of Bangladesh and China will remain friendly and united in keeping peace and stability in the region and the world as a whole. He was speaking at a dinner hosted by him in honor of the visiting Chinese vice premier, Mr Li Hsien-nien, last night.

The vice president said he was happy that the two countries shared with each other an identity of views and harmonious approach toward various issues of bilateral and international concern.

Describing the visit of the Chinese leader to Bangladesh as an event of great significance, Justice Sattar said this will contribute to further cementing friendly relations between the two countries and their people.

Madame Li Hsien-nien, the Chinese foreign minister, Mr Huang Hua, and other members of the entourage attended the dinner.

Further Activities

HK190931Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0605 GMT 19 Mar 78 HK

[Text] The Chinese vice premier, Mr Li Hsien-nien, visited the national memorial for martyrs at Sabar this morning and placed a wreath. From there he went to Jadevpur to visit the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute.

Mr Li Hsien-nien, accompanied by his delegation, will be enjoying a [river] cruise today. In the afternoon he will visit the industrial exhibition in Dacca.

Foreign Ministers Talk

BK2010562 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0605 GMT 20 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister, Mr Huang Hua, called on the presidential adviser for foreign affairs, Prof Mohammad Shamsul Huq, in Dacca this morning. They stayed together for half an hour. Later, official talks between the two foreign ministers began.

Mr Shamsul Haq is being assisted by his foreign secretary, the Bangladesh ambassador to China and the additional foreign secretary. Present on the Chinese side were the Chinese ambassador, Mr Chuang Yen, and the high officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The talks were continuing when reports last came in.

Zia, Li Continue Talks

BK2013022 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 20 Mar 78 BK

[Text] President Zia and the Chinese vice premier, Mr Li Hsien-nien, held their second round of formal talks at Banga Bhavan today. The talks, which lasted an hour, centered mainly on bilateral matters and international issues, including the Middle East situation.

Later the Bangladesh foreign secretary told newsmen that the talks were satisfactory. He said the two leaders discussed in general the prospect of further economic cooperation between the two countries. They also reviewed details of the two cooperation agreements to be signed between the two countries tomorrow. In reply to a question, the foreign secretary said the talks will continue on the basis of mutual and friendly cooperation on bilateral and international issues.

On the Middle East, the two leaders expressed the hope that Arab solidarity and unity will be maintained.

The Chinese vice premier spoke highly of the economic progress achieved by Bangladesh and expressed the hope that the people's unity and prosperity will continue.

President Zia was assisted at the talks by his foreign affairs advisor, Prof Shamsul Haq, and the foreign secretary, while the Chinese foreign minister, Mr Huang Hua, and other Chinese officials assisted the Chinese vice premier.

Mr Li extended an invitation to President Zia on behalf of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng to visit China. The president accepted the invitation.

Earlier the Chinese foreign minister and his Bangladesh counterpart had a separate meeting lasting an hour and a half. The Bangladesh foreign secretary told newsmen afterward that China would like to see that Cambodia and Vietnam problems are resolved peacefully through negotiation. Bangladesh, he said, also shared the same view.

Economic Agreements Signed

BK2109112 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 21 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh and China have signed two agreements, one on economic and technical cooperation and the other on scientific and technological cooperation. The presidential adviser on planning, Dr M.N. Huda, and the Chinese foreign minister, Mr Huang Hua, signed the two agreements in Dacca this morning on behalf of their respective governments.

Under the scientific and technological cooperation agreement, Bangladesh and China will exchange experts and expertise for their mutual benefit in the fields of science and technology. The agreement will be valid for 5 years.

Under the economic and technical cooperation agreement, China will provide Bangladesh with about 800 million taka interest free loan. Out of the total amount, 680 million taka will be utilized in setting up a urea fertilizer plant and a water conservancy project near Dacca.

The fertilizer plant on completion will produce 180 tons of urea per day while the water conservancy project will provide irrigation facilities to 4,500 acres of land.

The (?rest) 120 million will be available as a commodity loan. Details of the projects, under the agreement, will be worked out later. After the signing of the agreements, Dr Huda and Mr Hua described the agreements as a landmark in the rapidly growing friendly relations between the two countries.

Mr Huang Hua said that his government is convinced that with the joint efforts of the two countries, the agreements will be carried out fruitfully. Reciprocating the sentiments, Dr Huda said the agreements mark the beginning of concrete economic cooperation between Bangladesh and China and hoped that the signing of the two agreements will lead to much bigger and greater cooperation between the two countries.

The presidential adviser on foreign affairs, Prof Shamsul Huq, and the Chinese vice minister for economic relations with foreign countries, Mr Cheng Fei, were also present at the signing ceremony.

Concludes Visit

BK2107402Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0605 GMT 21 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Chinese Vice Premier and Madam Li were given a hearty sendoff when they left Dacca this morning after a 4-day official visit to Bangladesh.

They were seen off at the airport by the President and Begum Ziaur Rahman. Also present were the vice president, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, the presidential advisers, service chiefs, and high officials.

Before leaving, the Chinese vice premier was given a guard of honor by a smart contingent drawn from the three services.

Earlier this morning the Chinese leader had a farewell meeting with the president at Banga Bhavan. Present on the occasion were the Chinese foreign minister, Mr Huang Hua, and the vice minister for economic relations with foreign countries, Mr Cheng Fei; and from the Bangladesh side, Prof Shamsul Huq, presidential adviser on foreign affairs, and the foreign secretary.

Peking NCNA Reportage

For Peking NCNA reportage on the 4-day visit of Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien and his delegation to Bangladesh, see the South Asia subsection of the International Affairs section of the 20 March issue and subsequent issues of the People's Republic of China DAILY REPORT.

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